

What you need to know about Airborne Anthrax

Anthrax is a disease caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*. These bacteria form spores that can be suspended in the air and breathed in by humans, causing inhalation anthrax infection. Anthrax cannot be spread from person to person, but it can be deadly if left untreated.

If you think you have been exposed to anthrax, you need to begin treatment within 48 hours.

How will I know if I have been infected by anthrax?

You may not know right away if you have been infected. It may take 7 days to notice symptoms

- At first, you may notice the following symptoms:
 - ✓ Sore throat
 - ✓ Mild fever
 - ✓ Muscle aches
- Later symptoms include:
 - ✓ Cough
 - ✓ Chest discomfort
 - ✓ Shortness of breath
 - ✓ Tiredness
 - ✓ Muscle aches
- If you may have been exposed to anthrax, it is important to take medication within the first 48 hours to prevent infection. If you have been infected, you will be given a 60-day course of medicine.

What medicine will I get? *Doxycycline or Ciprofloxacin*

- Most people will get Doxycycline. You will get Ciprofloxacin if you are pregnant, nursing, or allergic to Doxycycline.
- Both medications are effective and have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

What should I do if I think I have been exposed to anthrax?

- Dial 2-1-1 or go to www.healthvermont.gov for more information about your closest POD.