



MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BRUCELLOSIS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Brucellosis FAQ

- Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Brucella*.
- It can infect sheep, goats, cattle, deer, elk, pigs, dogs, and several other animals.
- People in contact with infected animals or animal products could become ill.

What are the symptoms of brucellosis?

- Symptoms are similar to the flu and may include fever, sweats, headaches, back pains, and physical weakness.
- Severe infections of the central nervous systems or lining of the heart may occur.
- Long-lasting or chronic symptoms including recurrent fevers, joint pain, and fatigue may also occur.

How common is brucellosis?

- Brucellosis is rare in the United States – 100 to 200 cases each year.
- It can be very common in countries where animal disease control programs have had limited success. High risk areas are the Mediterranean Basin (Portugal, Spain, Southern France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, North Africa), South and Central America, Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. Unpasteurized cheeses, sometimes called "village cheeses," from these areas may represent a particular risk for tourists.



How can people become infected with brucellosis?

- Eating or drinking something contaminated with *Brucella*, such as milk products
- Breathing in the organism
- The bacteria enters the body through skin wounds



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

BRUCELLOSIS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Can brucellosis be spread from person to person?

Direct person-to-person spread of brucellosis is extremely rare.

How can infection be prevented?

- Do not consume unpasteurized milk, cheese, or ice cream while traveling.
- Hunters and animal herdsman should use rubber gloves when handling viscera of animals.
- If a person exposed to brucellosis is treated promptly, risk of infection will probably be eliminated within 3 days.

Is there a vaccine for brucellosis?

There is no vaccine available for people.

Is there a treatment for brucellosis?

- Brucellosis is treated with an antibiotic.
- Depending on the timing of treatment and severity of illness, recovery may take a few weeks to several months..

How can I get health advisories or alerts?

- In the event of a public health threat or emergency, the Macomb County Health Department will make frequent public announcements.
- Listen to local radio and TV for more information. You may also visit <http://macombcountymi.gov/publichealth> or call 586-466-7923 for instructions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Macomb County Health Department
Emergency Preparedness Program
43525 Elizabeth Road
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
Phone: 586-469-5235
Fax: 586-469-5885

<http://macombcountymi.gov/publichealth>

MORE BRUCELLOSIS INFORMATION

- Brucellosis (Michigan Department of Natural Resources) http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12150_12220-26503--,00.html
- Brucellosis (CDC) <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/brucellosis/>
- Brucellosis (U.S. Department of Agriculture) http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/brucellosis/
- Call the CDC at **1-800-CDC-INFO** or **1-888-232-6348** (TTY).