

Brucellosis

What is Brucellosis?

Brucellosis is a disease caused by bacteria, mainly *Brucella abortus*, and *B. melitensis*.

Signs and Symptoms

The incubation period varies widely; commonly lasts 1-2 months, but can be between 5 days to 5 months.

Initial symptoms include:

- Fever
- Sweats
- Malaise
- Anorexia
- Headache
- Muscle and joint pain
- Fatigue

Some symptoms can persist for long periods of time, and include: arthritis, swelling of the scrotum/testicles, endocarditis, neurologic symptoms, swelling of liver/spleen and depression

Transmission (How it spreads)

Ingestion of undercooked meat or unpasteurized/raw dairy products

Inhalation of bacteria

Cutaneous – via wounds or mucous membranes

Diagnosis and Treatment

Tests identify the bacteria in the blood, bone marrow or other bodily fluids

Certain antibiotics are recommended for a 6-8 week treatment cycle

Prevention:

Do NOT consume undercooked meat, unpasteurized dairy (milk, cheese, ice cream)

Who's At Risk?

High risk groups include:

- Farm workers
- Veterinarians
- Meat processing plant workers

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation
Line: 785-317-0474

Brucellosis is a reportable disease in the state of Kansas. All cases must be reported to
KDHE via the Epi Hotline: 877-427-7317