

## Tickborne Relapsing Fever

### What is Tickborne Relapsing Fever?

Tickborne Relapsing Fever (TBRF) is a bacterial infection caused by a species of *Borrelia* spirochetes

Tickborne Relapsing Fever usually occurs in the western United States.

### Signs and Symptoms

The incubation period is typically 7 days

- High fever (typically > 103°F)
- Headache
- Muscle Ache
- Joint Pain

Symptoms occur in a pattern, with fever lasting 3 days, followed by 7 days without fever, followed by another 3 days with fever.

Infection during pregnancy can lead to spontaneous abortion, premature birth, and neonatal death.

### Transmission (How it spreads)

The bacteria is spread to humans through the bite of an infected soft tick. These ticks typically live within rodent burrows, NOT in tall grass or brush.

Humans come into contact with these ticks usually when in a cabin that has been infested by rodents or has signs of rodent activity.

### Diagnosis and Treatment

Blood samples can be taken and tested in various ways for TBRF

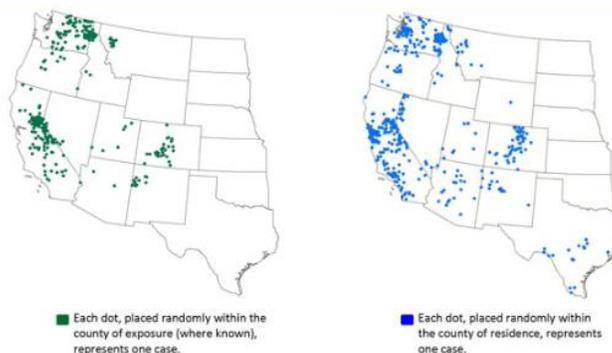
Antibiotics are used for treatment

### Prevention:

Avoid sleeping in rodent-infested buildings, and look for signs of rodent activity in buildings (cabins, etc.)

Proven tick bites using an EPA-registered insect repellent contained DEET

Cases of Tick-borne Relapsing Fever - United States, 1990 - 2011



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