

## Typhus Fever

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### What is Typhus Fever?

Typhus Fevers are a group of diseases caused by bacteria that are spread to humans by fleas. There are three main types of typhus fevers: scrub typhus, murine typhus, and epidemic typhus

### Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms for all three types of typhus fevers are similar, and include:

- Fever and chills
- Headache
- Rash

In addition to these symptoms, other symptoms vary by disease type

Epidemic Typhus:

- Cough
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Confusion

Scrub Typhus, symptoms appear within 10 days of being bitten

- Body aches and muscle pain
- Scab-like region at site of the bite
- Mental changes ranging from confusion to coma
- Enlarged lymph nodes

Murine Typhus symptoms usually appear within 2 weeks after contact with infected fleas

- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Cough

The rash typically appears within 5 days of illness

### Transmission (How it spreads)

Epidemic typhus: spread by body lice

Scrub typhus: spread by the bite of infected chiggers

Murine typhus: spread by the bite of an infected flea

### Diagnosis and Treatment

The antibiotic doxycycline is the recommended treatment

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