

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis)

What is Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever?

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) is a tickborne disease caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii*. There are many species of tick that can spread the disease in the United States including the American dog tick, Rocky Mountain wood tick, and the brown dog tick. Most cases occur between April and September

Signs and Symptoms

The incubation period is usually 2-14 days, and symptoms include:

- Fever
- Rash
- Headache
- Nausea and vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Myalgia
- Lack of appetite
- Conjunctivitis

Rash usually develops 2-5 days after fever occurs, though it is not always present during illness

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider.

Transmission (How it spreads)

- Through the bite of an infected tick

Diagnosis and Treatment

Examination by a doctor, and blood tests are used to diagnose illness

RMSF can be fatal within the first 8 days, if not treated properly

Doxycycline, a broad-spectrum antibiotic is effective in treating the illness

Prevention:

- Use of EPA-registered insect repellent (i.e.) Off!, Cutter, Sawyer, Skin So Soft; *the use of insect repellent while pregnant is safe and poses no adverse risk to the unborn child*
- Long sleeve shirts and long pants
- Perform tick checks after being outdoors

Who is at Risk?

Anyone who spends time outdoors in wooded or bushy areas where ticks may live

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

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