



## MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# TULAREMIA

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### What is tularemia?

- Tularemia is a bacterium (germ) that may intentionally be released into the air (bioterrorism) and breathed (inhaled) into people's lungs causing severe medical complications.
- The germ can also be transmitted through the bite of an infected flea, tick, or fly, or by contact with an infected animal.

### Can I get tularemia from an infected person?

The infection is NOT spread from person to person.

### How will I know if I was exposed to the germ?

- It will depend on how the germ is released, where it was released, and where you were in relation to the release site.
- The further away you were from the release site the less likely it will be that you were exposed.

### How soon will symptoms develop (incubation period)?

Symptoms may start from 1-21 days after exposure to the germ.

### What are the symptoms of infection?

- If the germ invades your lungs, you may have:
  - fever
  - headache
  - sore throat
  - loss of appetite
  - sore muscles
  - nausea
  - vomiting, diarrhea
  - abdominal pain
  - cough
- You may also develop respiratory complications and other serious medical conditions.
- If you have any of these symptoms and believe that you have been exposed to tularemia, contact your health care provider or emergency room immediately.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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**How is the infection treated?**

If you have the infection, your health care provider (doctor or nurse) will give you an antibiotic.

**How is the infection prevented?**

- If the Macomb County Health Department determines that you were exposed to the germ, you will be offered an antibiotic.
- Even if you take the antibiotic, you may develop the infection.
- If you develop symptoms such as fever or cough while you are taking the antibiotic, you should go to the nearest emergency service center or hospital immediately.

**How long should I take the antibiotic?**

- You should continue taking the antibiotic for as long as it has been prescribed.
- The Macomb County Health Department will make frequent announcements to give you the most current information.

**What should I do if I DO NOT have symptoms?**

- If you do not have symptoms of the infection, you should continue with your routine daily activities.
- Please DO NOT go to a hospital emergency room unless you have a fever or cough.

**How can I get health advisories or alerts?**

- The Macomb County Health Department will make frequent public announcements about who should receive the antibiotic, how to take it and where to can get it.
- Listen to local radio and TV for more information. You may also visit <http://macombcountymi.gov/publichealth> or call 586-466-7923 for instructions.

**MORE TULAREMIA INFORMATION**

**Tularemia: Michigan Prepares (MDCH/OPHP)**

[http://www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares/0,1607,7-232-42666\\_42882\\_42953-150626--00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares/0,1607,7-232-42666_42882_42953-150626--00.html)

**Tularemia (CDC)**

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/tularemia/>

**Tularemia Fact Sheet (NIAID)**

<http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/healthscience/healthtopics/tularemia/default.htm>

Call the CDC at **1-800-CDC-INFO** or **1-888-232-6348** (TTY).

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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