

# A N T H R A X

## What are the signs and symptoms of anthrax?

Symptoms of disease vary depending on how the disease was contracted, but symptoms usually occur within 7 days.

**Cutaneous anthrax** is the most common naturally occurring type of infection and usually occurs after skin contact with contaminated meat, wool, hides, or leather from infected animals.

### Signs/symptoms of Cutaneous:

The skin infection begins as a small papule, progresses to a vesicle in 1-2 days followed by a black necrotic ulcer. The lesion is usually painless, but patients also may have fever, malaise, headache and lymph nodes may be swollen.

**Inhalation anthrax** is the most lethal form of anthrax. Anthrax spores must be aerosolized in order to cause inhalation anthrax period

### Signs/Symptoms of Inhalation:

Sore throat, mild fever, muscle aches and malaise. These symptoms may progress to respiratory failure and shock with meningitis frequently developing.

**Gastrointestinal anthrax** usually follows the consumption of raw or undercooked contaminated meat and has an incubation period of 1-7 days. It is associated with severe abdominal distress followed by fever and signs of septicemia. The disease can take an oropharyngeal or abdominal form. Involvement of the pharynx is usually characterized by lesions at the base of the tongue, sore throat, dysphasia, fever, and regional lymphadenopathy. Lower bowel inflammation usually causes nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting and fever, followed by abdominal

pain, vomiting blood, and bloody diarrhea.