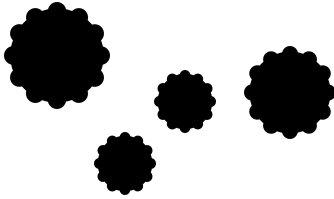


Tularemia

Fact Sheet



Tularemia is caused by the bacteria *Francisella tularensis*. It is a potentially serious illness in humans. The bacteria are found in animals and insects, especially rodents, rabbits, hares, ticks, and deer flies.

Spread

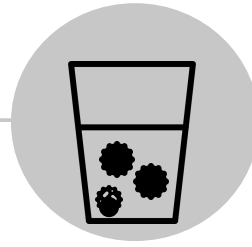
People can get tularemia by:



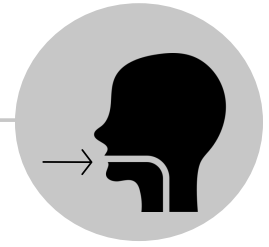
A bite from an infected tick or deer fly



Handling infected animals or carcasses



Eating or drinking unclean food or water



Inhaling bacteria

Signs and Symptoms



Sudden Fever and Chills



Headache



Muscle and Joint Pain



Dry Cough



Weakness



Diarrhea

Other signs and symptoms vary depending on exposure. These can include ulcers, swollen and painful lymph glands and eyes, sore throat, pneumonia, and trouble breathing. Symptoms usually appear three to five days after exposure, but can take up to 14 days.

Diagnosis and Treatment



Talk to a healthcare provider if you think you have tularemia. Tularemia is diagnosed based on signs and symptoms and confirmed with blood, sputum, or skin tests.

People with tularemia should be treated as soon as possible. This disease can be deadly if it is not treated correctly. Tularemia is treated with antibiotics.

Prevention



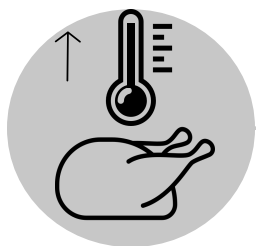
Use an EPA-approved repellent for use on skin.*



Use gloves when handling animals.



Wash your hands, especially after handling animal bodies.



Cook food all the way.



Make sure water is clean and from a safe source.



Do not mow over dead animals.

*EPA-approved repellents for use on skin include DEET, IR3535, picaridin, and oil of lemon eucalyptus. Use permethrin on clothing.

For More Information, Visit:



www.cdc.gov/tularemia

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.