

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON HEALTH CENTER

-HEALTHBERRY-
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ANTHRAX

Anthrax is a disease normally associated with plant-eating animals. It is caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*.

There are three forms of anthrax: cutaneous, inhalation, and gastrointestinal.

Cutaneous: the formation of a red nodule on the skin which will develop a black center in 2 days.

Inhalation anthrax is the form suitable as a biowarfare agent. Symptoms usually occur within seven (7) days of exposure. Initial symptoms resemble a common cold. This progresses within a few days to severe breathing problems and shock. This form is usually fatal.

A vaccine for humans is manufactured and distributed by BioPort Corporation, Lansing, Michigan. Anthrax vaccines intended for use in animals should not be used in humans. Immunizations for humans are not available at this time and are not recommended for the general public.

Anthrax is diagnosed by isolating *Bacillus Anthrascis* from the blood, skin lesions, or respiratory secretions, or by measuring specific antibodies in the blood.

Antibiotics are available to treat the disease or exposure to the disease and the UH Health Center has an ample supply. It is not advisable to prescribe the antibiotics in the absence of exposure.

Anthrax is not contagious.

We at the Health Center will be happy to help you.



Healthfully yours,

Dr. Healthberry

For questions or comments you can;

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