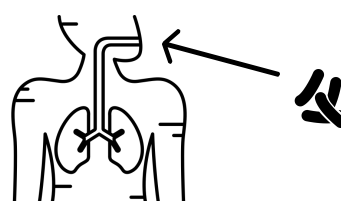
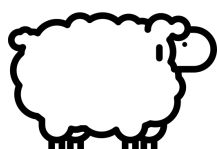
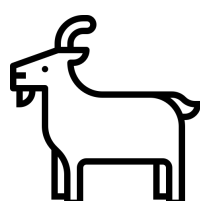




# Q Fever

Fact Sheet



Q fever is a disease caused by a bacteria called *Coxiella burnetii*. Q fever is most often a disease of cattle, sheep, and goats, but other livestock, pets, and people can get Q fever.

Q fever usually spreads when a person breathes in dust containing the dried wastes of infected animals. Direct contact with infected animals and their blood, feces, urine, soiled bedding, and raw milk can also cause infection.

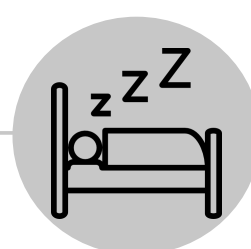
## Signs and Symptoms



High Fevers up to 105°F



Headaches



Feeling Tired



Muscle Aches



Confusion



Cough

Symptoms can also include sore throat, chills, sweats, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, stomach pain, and chest pain. Chronic Q fever is more serious and can harm heart valves. Most infected animals do not have symptoms, but infection may cause abortion in sheep and goats.



Talk to your healthcare provider if you think you have Q fever. Let your provider know if you work with animals. Most people recover without treatment, but antibiotics are available and work best when started early. Chronic Q fever is very difficult to treat. Q fever can be deadly if it is not treated correctly.

## Pregnant Women and Q Fever



Women who are infected during pregnancy may be at risk for miscarriage, stillbirth, pre-term delivery, or low infant birth weight.

## Who Gets Q Fever?



Persons at highest risk include those who work with animals, including veterinarians, meat workers, sheep and dairy workers, and farmers.

## Prevent Q Fever



Wear a face mask and shield when in contact with infected animals

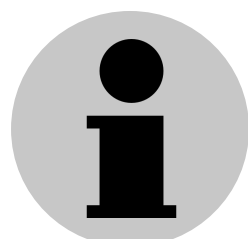


Do not eat or drink raw milk and raw milk products

Safety measures for people who work with animals include:

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment
- Ensure correct disposal of infected materials, such as birth products and aborted fetuses
- Restrict access to laboratories and barns with infected animals
- Use the correct method for bagging and cleaning work clothes

## For More Information, Visit:



1. [www.maine.gov/dhhs/qfever](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/qfever)
2. [www.cdc.gov/qfever](http://www.cdc.gov/qfever)

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