

# Brucellosis

## What is Brucellosis?

Brucellosis, or Undulant Fever, is a rare infectious disease caused by Brucella bacteria. These bacteria are passed, and cause disease, primarily among animals. Various Brucella bacteria affect sheep, goats, cattle, deer, elk, pigs, dogs, and several other animals.

Humans become infected by coming into contact with infected animals or consuming contaminated or unpasteurized milk and dairy products. Those at greatest risk for the disease include abattoir workers, meat inspectors, animal handlers, veterinarians, and laboratory workers.

## What are the symptoms of Brucellosis?

The symptoms of this disease can vary.

In humans, non-specific and flu-like symptoms usually appear within eight weeks of contracting the illness. Symptoms can include fever, sweats, anorexia, headache, muscle pain, back pain, and physical weakness.

Severe infections of the brain or lining of the heart may occur. Brucellosis can also cause long-lasting or chronic symptoms that include recurrent fevers, joint pain, pain in the testicles, fatigue, and depression.

*This fact sheet provides basic information only. It must not take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always talk to a health care professional about any health concerns.*

Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division.

**For further information contact the Infectious Disease Program at 625-8318  
or toll free 1-888-294-6630, ext. 8318.**

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