

**Tracer Protection Services, Inc.**  
**Anthrax Fact Sheet**

**Anthrax (Bacillus Anthracis) Safety Data Sheet**

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| PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS  |
| Aerobic, large gram positive rods occurring in chains; non-motile; forms resistant spores |

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| HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION   |
| <i>Pathogenicity:</i> Cutaneous Anthrax – itching, boils, and formation of a black scab (5-20% case fatality in untreated cases); inhalation anthrax – fever, chest pain, & difficulty breathing (usually fatal); gastrointestinal anthrax – abdominal distress, fever, nausea, vomiting, & diarrhea (25-60% case fatality) |
| <i>Infectious Dose:</i> 8,000 to 50,000 spores by inhalation  |
| <i>Mode of Transmission:</i> Infection of skin by contact; inhalation anthrax results from inhalation of spores; gastrointestinal anthrax results from ingestion of spores  |
| <i>Incubation Period:</i> Can vary with form of disease. CDC reports 1-12 days for cutaneous anthrax, 1-7 days for gastrointestinal anthrax, and "unclear" for human inhalational anthrax, but reported to range from 1-7 days, and may be as much as 60 days   |
| <i>Communicability:</i> Transmission from person to person is very rare   |
| <i>Drug Susceptibility:</i> Susceptible to penicillin (except for inhalation anthrax in which the mortality remains high); ciprofloxacin, doxycycline, tetracyclines, erythromycin, & chloramphenicol   |
| <i>Medical Surveillance:</i> Monitor for suspicious skin lesions and other symptoms; laboratory confirmation through direct microscopy, culture, immunological techniques   |

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| EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO POTENTIAL EXPOSURE  |
| Wash hands with soap and water; shower with soap and water; prompt treatment with high dose antibiotics |