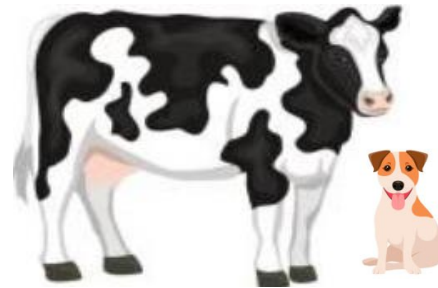




Brucellosis: What You Need to Know to Stay Safe

What is brucellosis?

Brucellosis (also called Malta fever or undulant fever) is an infection caused by several species of *Brucella* bacteria. These bacteria normally infect animals like cattle, sheep and goats, pigs, dogs, wild hogs and other game. Brucellosis can be passed from infected animals to people in certain situations. Brucellosis is rare in the United States. Most cases are in travelers who visit countries where brucellosis is common.



What are the symptoms of brucellosis?

Symptoms are usually not specific and can include:



Fever



Night sweats



Joint and
muscle pain



Fatigue



Headache



Back pain

In some cases, people develop **long-term infections** in the **brain, heart, spleen, or liver** that can **cause severe illness or death**. Most people develop symptoms within the first eight weeks after exposure, but it can take as long as six months for symptoms to show.

How do people become infected with brucellosis?



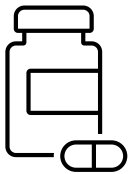
Most people become infected through eating or drinking raw (unpasteurized) dairy products like milk or cheese, directly handling infected animals and their body fluids, hunting or slaughtering infected animals, or eating undercooked game meat.



Who is at risk for getting infected with brucellosis?

Brucellosis can affect anyone. However, certain people are **more at risk** based on their behaviors, including:

- Anyone who consumes raw (unpasteurized) dairy products.
- Anyone who directly handles infected animals or their body fluids like farmers, veterinarians, or slaughterhouse workers.
- Hunters who slaughter wild hogs or other game.
- Laboratory workers who handle contaminated samples.



How is brucellosis treated?

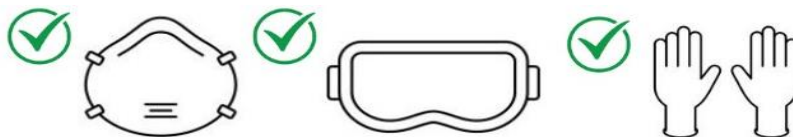
Patients with brucellosis are treated with antibiotics for at least six weeks. Some patients may need longer treatments depending on the severity and location of the infection.

How can brucellosis be prevented?

There are several ways to keep yourself safe from brucellosis:

- **Do not consume raw (unpasteurized) dairy products**
- Wear **protective clothing** when working with sick animals, especially when handling reproductive tissues or fluids.
- Do not approach sick or dead wild animals.
- Do not eat sick animals or animals you have found dead.
- Hunters should wear **protective clothing** when butchering wild hogs, wash their hands with soap and water anytime they handle wild hogs or meat, and cook meat to an internal temperature of 160° F before eating.

Protective clothing should include face mask, eye protection, and gloves.



For more information visit: [cdc.gov/brucellosis/about/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/about/index.html).