

## Psittacosis

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### What is Psittacosis?

Psittacosis is an infectious disease caused by *Chlamydia psittaci*, a bacteria that normally infects birds.

### Signs and Symptoms

In most people, symptoms develops within 5-14 days after exposure. Symptoms include:

- Fever and chills
- Headache
- Muscle Ache
- Dry Cough

Infection can also lead to pneumonia, and rarely death

### Transmission (How it spreads)

The most common means of infection is via inhalation of dust from dried bird urine, feces, and respiratory secretions. This usually occurs when handling or cleaning a bird/bird cage

### Diagnosis and Treatment

Psittacosis is difficult to diagnose, but blood tests and sputum swabs are available to detect the bacteria in the body

Antibiotics are used for treatment

### Prevention:

If purchasing a pet bird, do so from a well-known pet store.

If you own a pet bird or poultry, follow good precautions when handling and cleaning birds and their cages

### Who's At Risk?

High risk groups include:

- Those who own and/or handle pet birds or poultry
- Veterinarians

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation  
Line: 785-317-0474

Psittacosis is a reportable disease in the state of Kansas. All cases must be reported to  
KDHE via the Epi Hotline: 877-427-7317