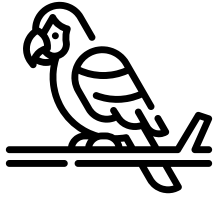


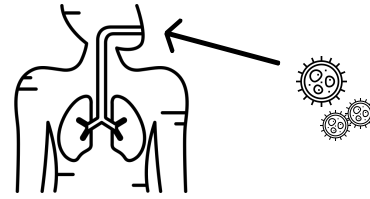


# Psittacosis

## Fact Sheet



Psittacosis is an infection caused by bacteria that often infect birds. This disease is also known as Ornithosis or Parrot Fever. Pet birds are most often infected.

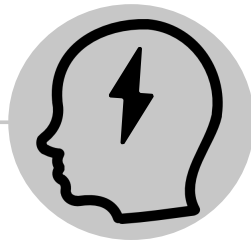


The most common way someone gets infected is by breathing in dust with dried bird droppings or secretions. Person to person spread is rare. Parrot-type birds are the most often infected. Pigeons and doves, turkeys, chickens, and ducks can sometimes get the disease.

## Symptoms



Fever and Chills



Headache



Muscle Aches



Dry Cough

Symptoms usually start 5 to 14 days after exposure. Psittacosis usually causes mild illness. Some people have serious complications and need care in a hospital. These complications can include pneumonia, heart problems (endocarditis), liver problems (hepatitis), and neurologic problems. Rarely, psittacosis can result in death. People diagnosed with psittacosis usually take antibiotics to treat the infection.

## Prevention



- Wash your hands after you touch birds, bird droppings, or bird cages.
- Isolate new birds to your flock or home from all other birds for 30 days and observe for illness.
- Wear protective clothing such as gloves and masks when handling, feeding, or cleaning cages of infected birds.
- Use wet cleaning methods (rather than sweeping or vacuuming) and disinfecting when cleaning waste material.
- Antibiotics are used to treat the illness.

## For More Information, Visit:



1. [www.cdc.gov/psittacosis/](http://www.cdc.gov/psittacosis/)
2. [www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/birds](http://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/birds)

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