

SUMMARY

Disease	Q Fever
Agent	<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>
Indications of Terrorist Release versus Natural Incidence	In a bioterrorism attack, <i>C. burnetii</i> would likely be released as an aerosol and inhaled; a biologic warfare attack would cause disease similar to that occurring naturally
Possible Means of Exposure	Inhalation, ingestion, bites from infected ticks; person-to-person (rare)
Incubation	14-40 days
Primary Symptoms	Flulike symptoms including high fever and severe headache; fatigue, weight loss, myalgias, pleuritic chest pain, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea; pneumonic presentation is atypical with dry, non-productive cough and rapid progression, or may have pneumonia w/ no pulmonary symptoms; there are many clinical syndromes
Diagnostic Tools of Choice	Serology testing
Treatment	Doxycycline (first-choice) or tetracycline
Post-Exposure Prophylaxis	Doxycycline or tetracycline
Vaccine	A vaccine is currently under investigation; previous Q fever patients should not receive the vaccine