

# ANTHRAX

## THE SILENT PANDEMIC

Anthrax is caused by the spore-forming bacteria ***bacillus anthracis***. This serious disease can be transmitted from animals to humans, making it a zoonotic infection



### DURABLE

Anthrax spores are very durable and can cause disease, even after years in the soil



### RECURRING

Anthrax cases often spike up during specific seasons like after heavy rains



### WIDESPREAD

18.5% of the Kenyan country landmass is high risk zone for anthrax



30% of the approximately 13 million cattle population in the western, south western, and central highland regions are at risk of contracting anthrax

75%

African countries contribute more than 75% of the 20,000–100,000 annual human anthrax cases reported globally



## IMPACT ON HUMANS

### HIGH RISK POPULATION



Communities in the high agriculture zones of western, southwestern and central highlands are more prone to anthrax outbreaks



Those who work closely with animals – abattoir workers, butchers, veterinarians, tannery workers

### TRANSMISSION



Spores can enter the body through cuts, accidental inhalation, or ingestion – contaminated meat or blood

### SYMPTOMS



**Cutaneous anthrax**  
Painless skin sore with black center



**Respiratory anthrax**  
Flu-like symptoms, severe breathing, shock



**Gastrointestinal anthrax**  
Fever, stomach pain, bloody diarrhea

### TREATMENT



Vaccination for exposure – combined with antibiotic treatment



Antibiotic treatment – doxycycline or ciprofloxacin



## IMPACT ON ANIMALS

### TRANSMISSION

Primarily spread via ingestion of spores by contaminated soil or feed



Infection through cuts and bruises in the skin, blood sucking flies, and inhalation of spores are additional pathways of infection



### SYMPTOMS



**Peracute**  
Sudden death



**Acute & sub-acute**  
Fever, depression, difficulty breathing, seizures, death



**Chronic**  
Swollen tongue, reddish froth oozing from the mouth, & death

### HERD HEALTH & TREATMENT

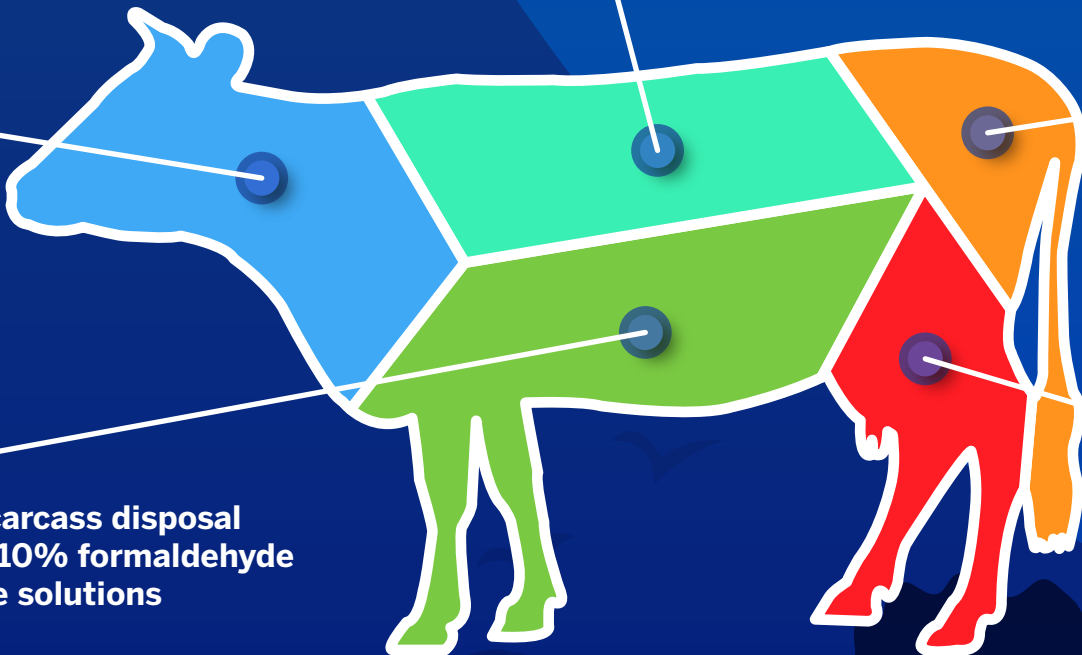


Vaccination for prevention in endemic areas, utilized as a reactionary measure in outbreak settings

## PROPER DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL CARCASSES

Do not open, touch, eat, or drink from the carcass of an animal that has died suddenly of unknown causes

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is necessary whenever dealing with suspect carcasses



Prevent access to the carcass by covering it with a tarp, or other material

All items and areas involved in carcass disposal should be thoroughly cleaned with 10% formaldehyde or 6% sodium hypochlorite solutions

Suspected anthrax animal carcasses should be disposed of by burning or deep burying

### CHALLENGES



LACK OF SURVEILLANCE



LACK OF LOCAL UNDERSTANDING OF DISEASE

### SOLUTIONS



VACCINATE LIVESTOCK AGAINST ANTHRAX



IMMEDIATELY REPORT DEAD ANIMALS TO A VET



SEEK MEDICAL HELP FOR ANTHRAX SYMPTOMS

Together, we can break the Chain  
#KnowYourRisks



**ZoNoH**  
One Health into Action

