## Blastomycosis

### Source
Spores in moist soil, decomposing organic matter.

### Transmission
- Inhalation of spores
- Person-to-person transmission NOT possible

### Incubation
30-45 days

### Clinical case definition
- Asymptomatic in 50% of cases
- Flu-like symptoms: Fever, chills, cough, muscle aches, joint pain, chest pain
- Can spread to skin & bones in serious cases
- Nodular, verrucous, or ulcerative skin lesions
- Weight loss

### High Risk
Immunocompromised, diabetes

### Epi Profile:
- Southeastern states & Central states
- Midwestern states bordering Great Lakes
- Yearly Incidence: 1-2 cases per 100,000 people in endemic areas

### Diagnosis

**Microbiology:** *Blastomyces dermatitidis* = dimorphic fungus. Yeast form at 37ºC, and mycelial form at room temperature and in soil. Conidia infectious to humans.

**Lab Diagnosis**
- **Culture:** Thick-walled, figure-eight shaped, broad-based, single budding yeast forms may be found in blood, sputum, tracheal aspirates, cerebrospinal fluid, urine, bone marrow
- Serologic tests lack adequate sensitivity, so all efforts should be made to obtain appropriate specimen for culture.

**Confirmed:** Clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed

### Treatment, Prophylaxis

**Treatment**
- Amphotericin B for life-threatening infection
- Oral itraconazole or fluconazole for mild or moderately severe infections
- Oral therapy usually continued for six months to a year for pulmonary and extrapulmonary disease

**No vaccine available**

### Standard precautions

**People at increased risk for infection in endemic areas include:**
- Farmers
- Forestry workers
- Hunters
- Campers

**Be cautious of soil in areas around rotting wood or leaves. Avoid wooded areas if immunocompromised.**

**Report to Louisiana Dept. of Health**

### Control

**http://www.infectiousdisease.dhh.louisiana.gov**

(800)256-2748