



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

September 2019

ZOONOSIS CONTROL

Region 8 Zoonosis Control Newsletter

Texas Department of State Health Services

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Dr. Kieffer's Corner

Fall is around the corner and we are looking forward to a break in temperatures and the season of hoodies and pumpkin spice. In this quarter's newsletter we highlight the most recent anthrax outbreak information and provide some educational resources on anthrax. Also, the school year has officially begun – what better time than to review tips and information for bats found in schools? See page 4 for details! We have a busy Fall schedule planned, including an ACO Basic Course, a Vector-borne Disease CE Course, mosquito surveillance training, and more. Wishing all a happy harvest season!

News from Region 8:

Mosquito Surveillance Kits

Region 8 has mosquito surveillance kits and LPA training funds available for vector control programs. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving a kit and enhancing surveillance in your jurisdiction.

ACO Continuing Education

Looking for ACO CE? Visit the DSHS website at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/aco/>

Vector Borne Disease CE:

4 hour course on vector borne diseases and public health considerations. CE pending for ACOs, DVMs, LVTs, and LPAs. See Page 5 for additional details.

3rd Quarter Rabies Summary

As of September 10, 2019, 52 positive cases of rabies were identified in 11 of the 28 counties that make up Region 8. Bats made up the largest group of positive cases (71%), followed by raccoons and foxes (12% each), cats (4%) and skunks (2%).

2019 Rabies Cases in Animals, Region 8
January 1, 2019—September 10, 2019

	Bat	Cat	Dog	Skunk	Raccoon	Fox
Atascosa	1					
Bandera					5	2
Bexar	26					
Comal	1					1
Gonzales	1					
Guadalupe	2					
Karnes	1					
Kendall	1			1	1	2
Kerr	3					1
Lavaca		2				
Uvalde	1					
Total	37	2	0	1	6	6

2019 ANTHRAX OUTBREAK

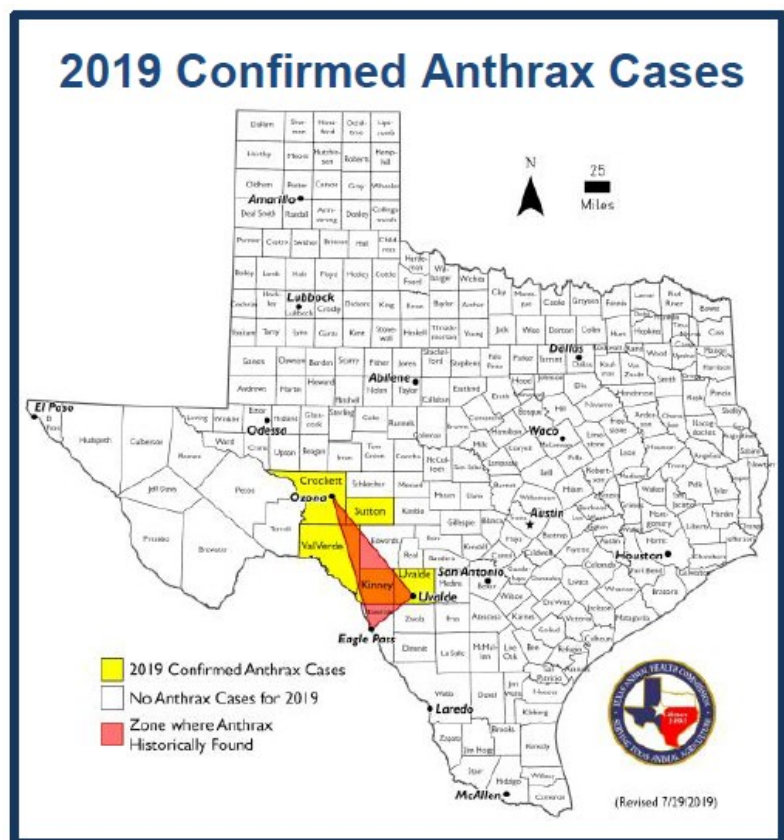
In June, the first case of anthrax of 2019 in Texas was reported in a species of antelope in Uvalde County. Since that time, additional confirmed anthrax cases have been reported in animals in Texas this year.

Anthrax naturally exists in southern and southwestern Texas. Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria, *Bacillus anthracis*. The bacteria forms spores (seed-like structures) that can survive on the ground and in pastures, which are then accidentally eaten by grazing animals during the dry summer months. As a result, those mainly affected by the disease are cattle, goats, sheep, and deer.

County	Confirmed Cases*
1.Crockett	5
2.Kinney	1
3.Sutton	10
4.Uvalde	3
5. Val Verde	1

Species Affected

- Antelope
- Goat
- Horse
- Deer
- Cattle



*As of 8/13/2019

https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/2019/2019-08-13_AnthraxUpdate.pdf

DSHS Public Health Region 8 24/7 Reporting Line: 210-949-2121

Texas Animal Health Commission 24/7 Reporting Line: 1-800-550-8242

For more information on anthrax, see the fact sheet on the following page

ANTHRAX IN TEXAS: 2019 FACT SHEET

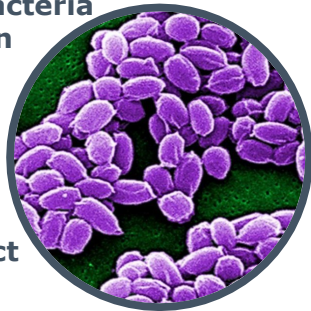
Public Health Region 8



TEXAS
Health and Human Services
Texas Department of State
Health Services

Anthrax is caused by a bacteria that forms spores and can be found naturally in the soil

In Texas, anthrax mostly affects animals but, on rare occasion, it can affect humans



ANTHRAX IN ANIMALS

Grazing animals are most vulnerable:

- Deer
- Cattle
- Goats
- Sheep
- Antelope

Animals become infected when they eat or breathe anthrax spores

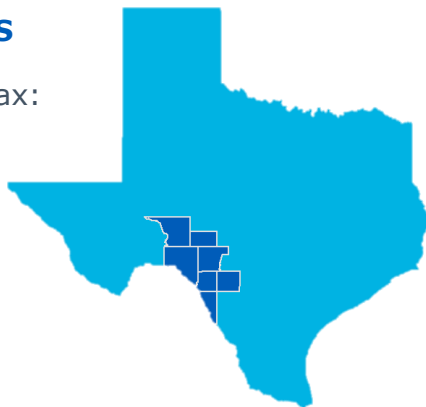
Sudden death is the most common sign an animal has been infected with anthrax



WHERE IN TEXAS

Counties with anthrax:

- Crockett
- Edwards
- Kinney
- Maverick
- Sutton
- Uvalde
- Val Verde



Contact your Vet about the anthrax vaccine if you own animals in one of these counties

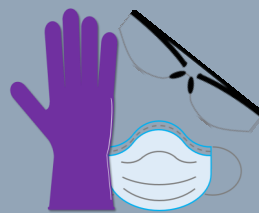
ANTHRAX IN PEOPLE

- Anthrax in people is rare
- Most people get anthrax when a spore gets into a break in the skin
- When a spore gets into the skin, it makes a sore that looks like a bug bite, but gets bigger and turns black
- Anthrax on the skin is easily treated by a doctor with antibiotics
- People that work with grazing animal are at the highest risk of getting anthrax

WHAT TO DO



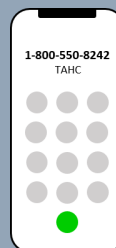
Do not handle or touch dead animals, **ESPECIALLY** those suspected of having anthrax



Wear protective equipment and wash hands with soap and water after handling animals or carcasses



Call your doctor if you notice a skin lesion, fever, or other symptoms after contact with a sick animal



Report suspicious animal deaths to the Texas Animal Health Commission or the Texas Department of State Health Services

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ANTHRAX
dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/anthrax

For more information or to report a case of anthrax: 210-949-2000 / 210-949-2121
If you think an animal has anthrax: 1-800-550-8242

BATS AND SCHOOLS

Texas has many bat species and bats can be beneficial to the environment. However, a small number of bats in Texas may also carry rabies virus. Rabies is a deadly disease transmitted through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. Bats have small teeth and bite wounds are not always visible. The best prevention is reducing exposure to bats.



Contact with a bat is considered high risk, even if the person does not recall a bite or scratch. Bat bites and scratches are very hard to see and detect. The following scenarios would warrant medical attention:

- ◆ A known bite or scratch
- ◆ Touching, handling, or holding of a bat
- ◆ Children found unattended with a bat nearby (such as, on a playground or in a classroom)
- ◆ Bat flying into, against, or landing on a person
- ◆ A bat is found near an infant, toddler, or a person who is sensory or mentally challenged

IF A WILD ANIMAL IS FOUND ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:

- ⇒ Remove all students and staff from the area
- ⇒ Close off area if possible
- ⇒ Never touch or attempt to capture the animal with your bare hands
- ⇒ Contact Animal Control to retrieve the animal to submit for testing, if warranted
- ⇒ Identify all students and staff who may have had contact
- ⇒ Notify DSHS for assistance

Bats often use buildings, including school buildings, as refuge. Here are some tips on preventing bats in schools and buildings:

- ◆ Keep doors closed during the early evening and early morning, as bats may fly into the building towards lights to catch insects.
- ◆ Maintain window screens in good repair.
- ◆ Ensure all attic and soffit vents are screened and all holes (dime size or larger) are sealed

Managing an Exposure

- ◆ Wash the affected area immediately
- ◆ Consult a healthcare provider for rabies vaccination

Resources, including sample school notification letters:
<https://schoolipm.tamu.edu/files/2017/02/BatControl.pdf>
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/rabies/>

TAMU AGRILIFE EXTENSION VECTOR CONTROL TRAININGS

Master Vector-Borne Disease Management Certification Course

A 3-Day Workshop that includes Vector Biology and Ecology, Epidemiology of Vector-Borne Diseases, Prevention & Communication Activities, Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, and Out-break Response for Vector-borne Diseases.

Preparation for the TDA Pesticide Applicator License

A 2-Day course specifically held for people wanting to obtain a Non-commercial political subdivision (NCPS) License Category 12, Public Health.

****NEW****

TDA will be on site on day 3 to administer two tests free of charge to those that have registered with TDA for their license

⇒ **Funding may be available to assist with travel reimbursement and exam fees (if applicable) for Region 8 jurisdictions included in the Hurricane Harvey Disaster Declaration counties. If you are within one of these counties and would like more information, please contact Region 8 for additional questions.**

Upcoming Courses in Region 8:

Uvalde, TX—Dec 10, 11, 12
San Antonio, TX—Mar 24, 25, 26

Vector Management CEU Program

This workshop is designed to train personnel in cities and municipalities that are in the field of mosquito abatement or are working on setting up a mosquito control program.

For more information on courses and registration information, visit <https://livestockvetento.tamu.edu/workshop-registration/>

DSHS TRAINING EVENTS

Animal Control Officer Basic Training Course

October 17-18, 2019

Animal Care Services Annex
4710 State Highway 151
San Antonio, TX 78227

The two-day course will consist of 12 hours of lecture with a test on the second day. We welcome any ACO who needs C.E. hours and would want to teach a topic for the class to contact us.

****Registration Closed****

For More ACO CE Course Information:
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/aco/>

Vector-Borne Disease and Public Health Seminar

November 14, 2019

10:00am—3:00pm

Seguin Animal Shelter
3021 N Guadalupe St
Seguin, TX 78155

4-hour introductory course on the role of public health professionals and vector-borne diseases. Topics include:

- ◆ Vector Identification & Surveillance
- ◆ Trapping, Abatement & Prevention Basics
- ◆ Vector-borne diseases in Texas, of human and animal significance
- ◆ Considerations for pest control applicators, animal handlers and veterinary professionals

To Register, visit the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPMWS2G>

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