

Getting to Know Harmful Bacteria

Name	Description
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	Causes a deadly disease in cattle known as anthrax and can also be used as a potential bioweapon against humans.
<i>Brucella abortus</i>	Causes an infectious disease among livestock and is primarily passed among animals, but humans can also become infected.
<i>Clostridium botulinum</i>	Referred to as botulism, this bacterium is a nerve toxin that can cause paralysis.
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	The most well-known bacteria, it is also the most common bacteria living in the gut; the “bad” strain of <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 causes severe food borne sickness; <i>E. coli</i> is also linked to ulcers and stomach cancer.
<i>Legionella pneumophilla</i>	This bacterium was discovered in 1976 after a mysterious deadly pneumonia outbreak. Because it first appeared at an American Legion convention, the illness it caused was dubbed Legionnaires disease.
<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Causes tuberculosis, an infectious disease that typically attacks the lungs and can also damage other parts of the body.
<i>Salmonella</i>	A group of bacteria usually passed from the feces of people or animals that cause one of the most common intestinal infections in the United States is called salmonellosis (a.k.a. food poisoning).
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	This is a specific virulent salmonella bacterium that is responsible for causing typhoid fever. This bacterium is spread via food or water that has been contaminated by someone who is carrying the <i>salmonella typhi</i> bacteria.
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	Also known as staph, this is one of the most dangerous drug-resistant bacteria. It can cause serious, even deadly, infections.
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	Causes “strep” throat, tonsillitis, meningitis, and pneumonia.
<i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	Commonly referred to as cholera, this bacterium is deadly and can be transmitted through fecally-contaminated water or food.