

**Insert agency name**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Insert date)

For information, contact:  
(Insert contact information)

## Headline

(Insert information about the event)

Local authorities believe that people who were at (insert location) on (insert date and time) may have been exposed to the bacteria that cause the infectious disease tularemia. Public Health and other local authorities are investigating this incident.

Symptoms of tularemia could include sudden fever, chills, headaches, muscle aches, joint pain, dry cough, progressive weakness, and pneumonia. Persons with pneumonia can develop chest pain and bloody spit and can have trouble breathing or can sometimes stop breathing. Other symptoms of tularemia depend on how a person was exposed to the tularemia bacteria. These symptoms can include ulcers on the skin or mouth, swollen and painful lymph glands, swollen and painful eyes, and a sore throat. Symptoms usually appear 3 to 5 days after exposure to the bacteria, but can take as long as 14 days. It is not spread from person to person.

The disease can be fatal if it is not treated with the appropriate antibiotics.

If you believe you have been exposed, or if you have any of the symptoms associated with tularemia, please see a healthcare provider immediately.

Public Health may open a mass medication dispensing site. That will be determined in the coming days, and the public will be informed as soon as that decision is made. Please stay tuned to local radio and TV stations for more information.