



DATE: August 12, 2015

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Keith Grellner, Board Chair

SUBJECT: EMERGING PATHOGEN BRIEFING – COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS

Background and Summary:

Today's briefing will present information on Coccidioidomycosis within a 'One Health' framework. "One Health" is a model that emphasizes the interconnectedness of human health, animal health and the environment. Coccidioidomycosis is a rare fungal infection known as Valley fever, cocci or San Joaquin Valley Fever. In 2010, the department of health received the first report of Valley fever acquired in Washington State. Prior to 2010, Valley fever was not thought to be endemic to Washington. Valley fever is typically contracted through inhalation of dust contaminated with fungal spores and is often asymptomatic. Symptomatic cases usually present as pulmonary disease although localized skin infections or disseminated disease including meningitis may also occur.

Lauren Jenks and Hanna Oltean are here today to provide a briefing to the Board on Valley fever and the department's activities to better understand this emerging pathogen in our state.

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