



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

T2 MYCOTOXIN

What is T2 mycotoxin?

T2 mycotoxin is a poisonous substance produced by fungi. Although it can occur naturally from moldy, improperly stored grains, it can also be produced commercially and used as a weapon of bioterrorism. The aerosol form of T2 mycotoxin, referred to as “yellow rain”, is highly poisonous and has been used previously during war time to produce high numbers of casualties.

What are possible methods of exposure?

There are three forms of exposure of T2 mycotoxins:

- Inhalation
 - breathing T2 mycotoxin in an aerosol form
- Ingestion
 - eating or drinking food or water contaminated with T2 mycotoxin
- Contact
 - absorption through the skin

T2 toxins are not spread person to person.

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms of T2 often depend on the amount and route of exposure. Symptoms can occur minutes to hours after exposure.

Inhalation:

- nose/throat pain
- nasal discharge
- itching
- sneezing
- coughing up blood
- wheezing/difficulty breathing
- chest pain

Ingestion:

- stomach pain
- diarrhea
- vomiting
- flu-like symptoms

Contact:

- skin pain
- itching
- redness
- blisters
- death of skin tissue

How is T2 diagnosed?

T2 is diagnosed by testing blood, urine, and/or environmental samples.

What is the treatment for T2?

- outer clothing should be removed and disposed of immediately
- exposed skin should be decontaminated with soap and water.
- eye exposure should be treated by flushing with large amounts of water
- seek medical attention immediately

There is no vaccine or specific medical treatment for T2 mycotoxin poisoning

How is T2 prevented?

- avoid eating or drinking contaminated food or drinks
- proper storage of livestock feed and grains
- wearing a gas mask and protective clothing during a bioterrorism attack

For more information on T2 contact:

Ottawa County Health Department

www.miOttawa.org

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>

Phone: (888) 246-2675