



# ZOONOTIC CONCERN

## avian chlamydiosis or psittacosis

**Cause:** *Chlamydophila psittaci*

**Occurrence in animals:** wild birds and some pet birds (e.g., parrots)

**Source in animals:** feces or respiratory secretions

**Exposure:** accidental inhalation or ingestion

**Symptoms:**

- Animals:
  - may be asymptomatic
  - otherwise, lethargy, anorexia, and ruffled feathers
  - ocular and nasal discharge and diarrhea are possible
- Humans:
  - fever, chills, headache, malaise, muscle ache, cough
  - if not treated, it can evolve into pneumonia

**Precautions:**

- Good personal hygiene:
  - **WASH HANDS** after handling animals and their environment.
  - No eating, drinking, smoking, ... around animals.
- Healthy animals may shed microorganisms.
- Organisms can persist for several days in the environment.
- Wear gloves, safety goggles and respirator when cleaning contaminated areas

**Additional information about chlamydiosis can be found at:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr4908a1.htm>

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/msds-ftss/msds31e.html>

<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/psittacosis.pdf>