

Medicine to Treat Anthrax

What type of medicine do I need to take?

Anthrax is treated with antibiotics. Most people will take the antibiotic Doxycycline. Anyone who is pregnant, breastfeeding, has certain medical conditions or is allergic to Doxycycline will take the antibiotic Ciprofloxacin.

How often do I need to take it?

Adults and children over [weight] who are who are able to swallow pills need to take 1 pill every 12 hours.

Children who cannot swallow pills must have their pills crushed and mixed into food. An instruction sheet will be given to you telling you how much to give a child depending on their weight. Each child should be given 1 dose of medicine every 12 hours.

How long do I need to take it?

Every person should take the medication for 10 days. After 10 days, health officials will let you know if you should continue taking medication.

What side effects will it have?

Side effects of Doxycycline include: diarrhea, upset stomach, nausea, sore mouth or throat, sensitivity to sunlight, or itching of the mouth or vagina lasting more than two days.

See a doctor if you get a skin rash, hives or itching, if you are wheezing or have trouble breathing, and/or swelling of the face, lips, or throat. This may mean you are allergic.

Side effects of Ciprofloxacin include: nausea, mild diarrhea, stomach pain, dizziness, headache and light headedness.

See a doctor if you get a skin rash or hives, swelling of face, throat, or lips, if you have shortness of breath or trouble breathing, seizures, and/or severe diarrhea. This may mean you are allergic.

What if I am allergic?

If you are allergic, [give instructions] and another kind of medication will be given to you.

For more information – Dial 2-1-1 or go to www.healthvermont.gov.