

Leprosy (Hansen's Disease)

Fact Sheet

What is it?

Leprosy is caused by the *Mycobacterium leprae* bacteria.
It multiplies very slowly and mainly affects the skin, nerves, and mucous membranes.

What are the symptoms?

Leprosy has a wide range of possible clinical pictures. Mild disease is usually characterized by one or more hypopigmented skin macules. More severe disease is associated with symmetric skin lesions, nodules, plaques, thickened dermis, and frequent involvement of the nasal mucosa resulting in nasal congestion and nose bleeds.

Other Questions?

Talk to your health care provider or call our Communicable Disease Program at 613-966-5500 x349.
Toll Free 1-800-267-2803 | TTY Dial 711 (1-800-267-6511) | www.hpepublichealth.ca

Reference

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Hansen's Disease, March 2008.

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