

TETANUS

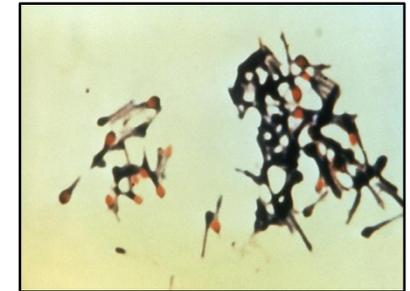
Often called "lockjaw" because the jaw muscles tighten and the mouth is unable to open

A Peril of Archaeologists

AND OTHERS WHO WORK IN THE FIELD

Tetanus is different from other vaccine-preventable diseases because it does not spread from person to person. The bacteria are usually found in soil, dust and manure and enter the body through breaks in the skin - usually cuts or puncture wounds caused by contaminated objects.

Keep up-to-date with an anti-tetanus booster every ten years



Clostridium tetani bacteria

TETANUS IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY REQUIRING HOSPITALIZATION

Historic artifacts that pose danger include dirty or rusted
1) mule shoes, 2) metal cans, 3) gold pans and barbed wire

Use personal protection equipment such as sturdy leather work gloves and boots to prevent exposure

