

# CALIFORNIA AND VALLEY FEVER

Claudia Jonah, M.D.  
Health Officer

Kern County Public Health Services Department

February 11, 2014

# 10 Core Functions of Public Health



# Core Function Applications

- Inform, Educate, Empower
- Mobilize Community Partnerships
- Policy Development

# Why take Valley Fever Seriously?

- ① Screening test exists, but not available
- ① Curative medicines don't exist
- ① No vaccine available for prevention

# Entering the San Joaquin Valley





# COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS

(Kok-sid-e-oi"-do-mi-ko'-sis)

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEVER

VALLEY FEVER

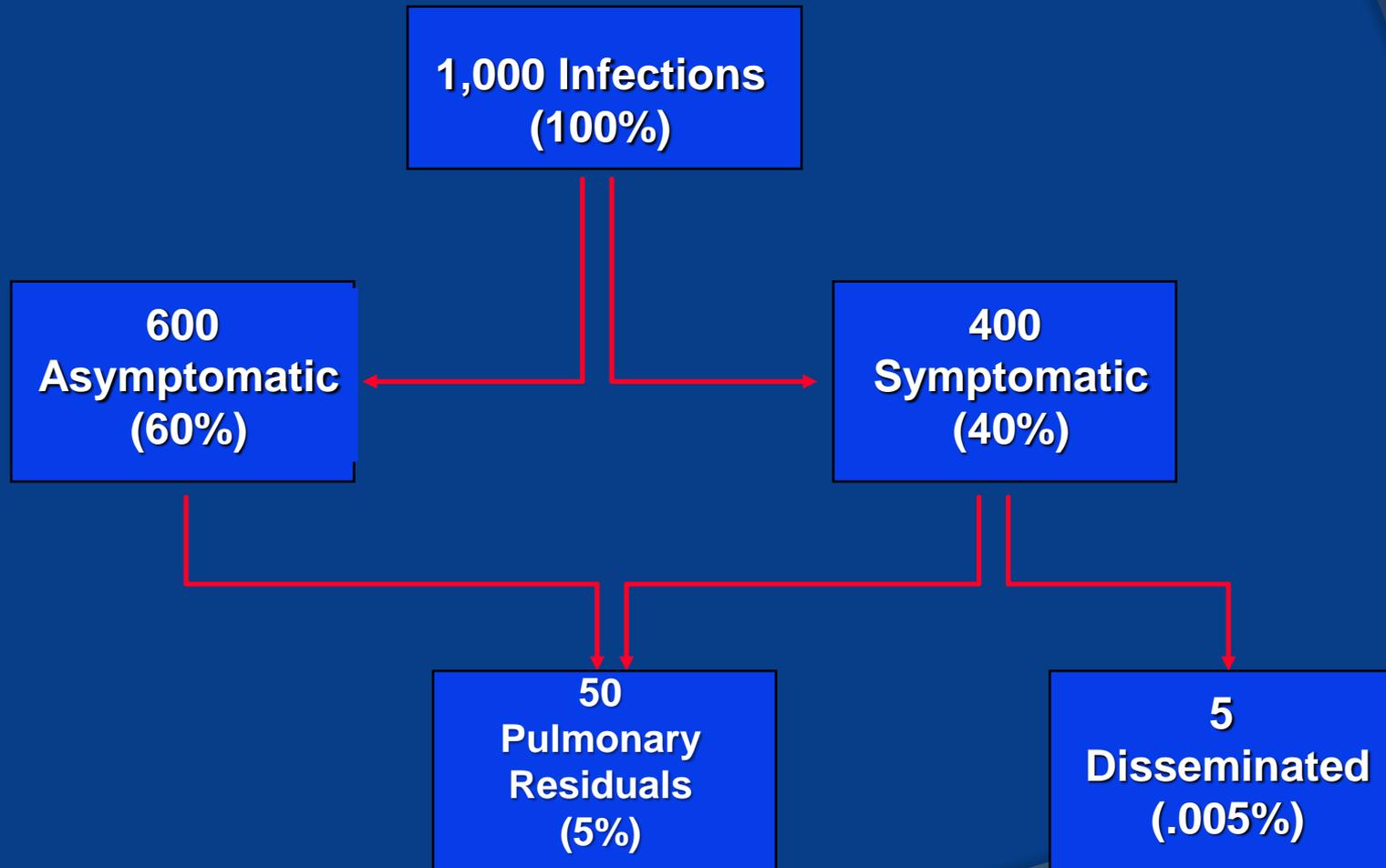
COCCI

COCCY

# What is Valley Fever?

- Coccidioidomycosis is a fungus commonly found in “desert-type” soil
- Inhaling the fungus can lead to infections that may or may not cause symptoms (1 - 4 weeks onset)
- Infections are not passed from person to person (tissue transplants are an exception).
- Risk for infection can be reduced

# How Serious is Valley Fever?



# Symptoms of Valley Fever

- Fatigue
- Chest pain
- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Headache
- Backache
- Night sweats
- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Rashes
- Tender bumps on shins

# Events That Can Transmit Valley Fever

Naturally occurring disturbance of soil



# Activities That Can Transmit Valley Fever



**Earth Moving –  
Land Development**



**Recreation – Off Road  
Vehicles**



**Mining - Oil Drilling**



**Home Gardening /  
Landscaping**



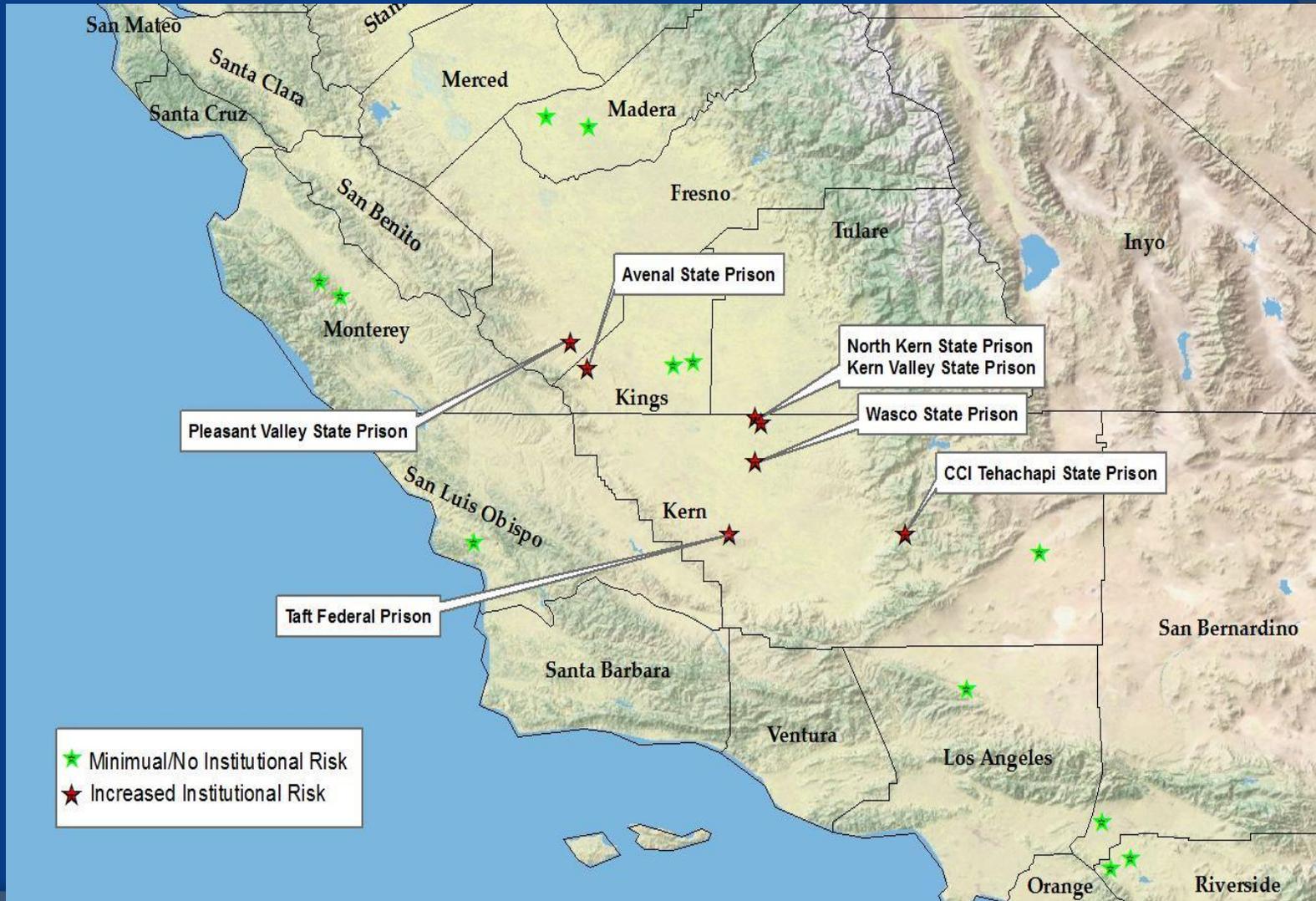
**Earth Tilling - Agriculture**

# Unrecognized Sources Of Exposure



- Several major highways run through San Joaquin Valley

# Higher Risk Populations



# Awareness

- ⦿ Pediatrics
- ⦿ Veterinarians
- ⦿ Off-Road Vehicle Use
- ⦿ Occupational

# Ways to Reduce Risk

- ⦿ Avoid outdoor activities during windy conditions
- ⦿ Set vehicle vents to recirculate
- ⦿ Close windows
- ⦿ Moisten soil prior to disturbing
- ⦿ Moisten dust prior to clean-up following dust storms
- ⦿ Masks

# Resources for more Information

- ① [kerncountyvalleyfever.org](http://kerncountyvalleyfever.org)
- ① [www.cdph.ca.gov/.../Coccidioidomycosis](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/.../Coccidioidomycosis)
- ① [www.vfce.arizona.edu](http://www.vfce.arizona.edu)