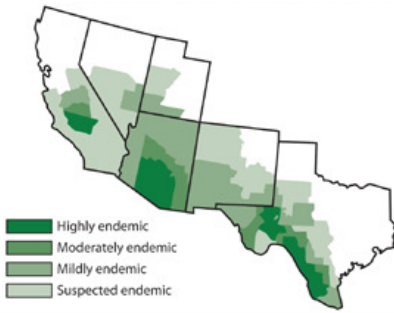




Areas Endemic for Valley Fever



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Valley Fever (Coccidioidomycosis)

Fact Sheet for Archeologists

Where Valley Fever is Found in the United States (i.e. Endemic Areas)

The *Coccidioides* fungus lives in soil and is endemic to California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, and Utah. It is mainly found in the Lower Sonoran Life Zone (i.e. low elevation desert), although Valley fever outbreaks have occurred in other arid or semi-arid settings. Typical *Coccidioides* habitat is fine, sandy loam soil. Since the 1950s, at least five outbreaks have been reported among archeologists, including an outbreak at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah in 2001.

Susceptible Population

People from non-endemic areas who lack prior exposure to *Coccidioides* are at increased risk for infection. Previously exposed individuals develop immunity to *Coccidioides* spores and are usually protected from subsequent infection.

This brochure was developed by the NPS Office of Public Health and is available at:
http://www.nps.gov/public_health/info/factsheets/fs_valleyfever.htm

For more information on Valley fever:
<http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/coccidioidomycosis>

For information on other archeology health and safety hazards:
Poirier DA, Feder KL, eds. *Dangerous Places: Health, Safety, and Archaeology*. Westport, CT: Praeger; 2001.

NPS Office of Public Health Contacts
Director: (202) 513-7217
Epidemiologist: (202) 538-9969

February 2013

Above & Cover Photos: Tom Bairfels, Grand Canyon National Park

