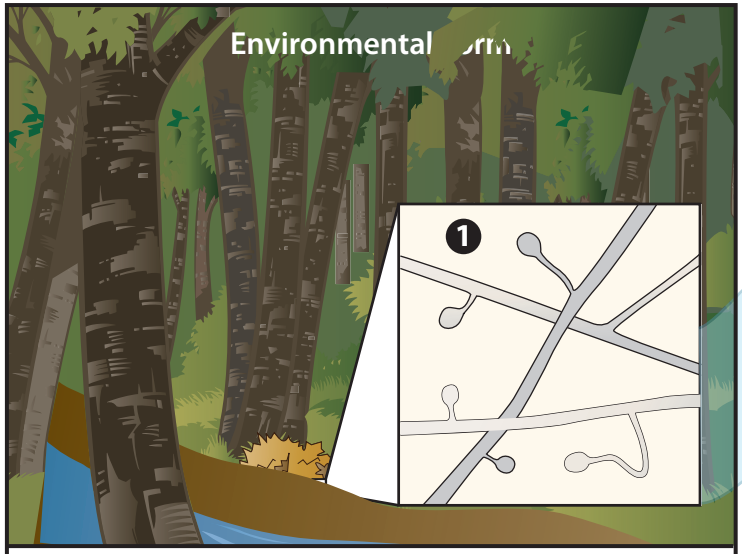
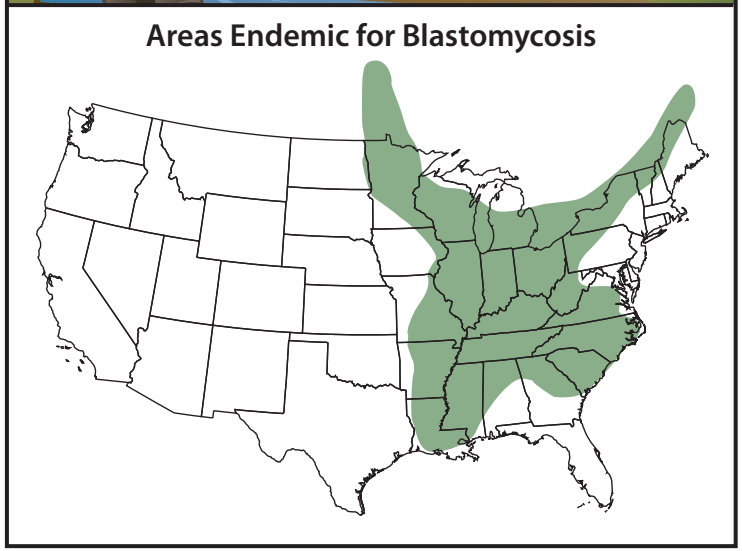
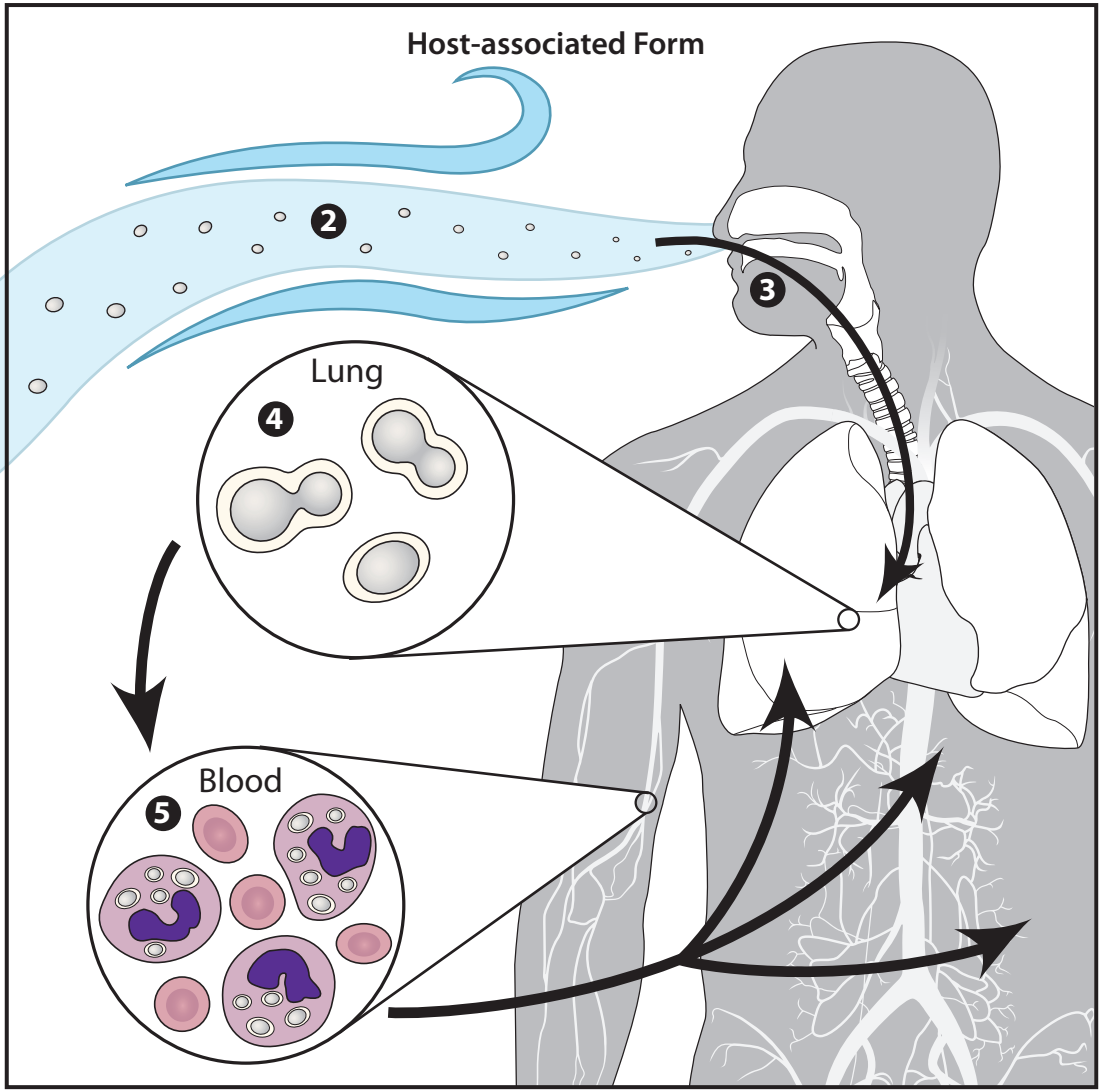
Biology of Blastomycosis







In the environment, *Blastomyces dermatitidis* exists as mold (1) with septate aerial hyphae. The hyphae produce conidial spores (2). These spores are either inhaled, or inoculated into the skin (3) of a susceptible host. The warmer temperature inside the host signals a transformation (4) into a broad-based budding yeast. The yeast may continue to colonize the lungs or disseminate in the bloodstream (5) to other parts of the body, such as the skin, bones and joints, organs, and central nervous system.