



## PLAGUE

- What is PLAGUE?** Plague is a bacterial disease found in rodents and other mammals. Plague occurs naturally in many parts of the world, including the United States. Plague in humans usually involves rats and their fleas. Plague takes three forms: bubonic, pneumonic, and septicemic.
- Transmission:** People become infected usually by being bitten by fleas carrying the bacteria. Pneumonic plague can spread from person to person through droplets released while coughing and/or sneezing. Septicemic and bubonic plague are not spread from person to person.
- Signs and Symptoms:**
- Bubonic:** swollen, tender lymph nodes (usually in the groin and less commonly in the armpits and neck areas), fever, chills, nausea, sore throat and headache. A person usually becomes ill 2-6 days after being infected.
- Pneumonic:** fever, headache, weakness, chills, cough and difficulty breathing, pneumonia with shortness of breath, rapid shock, and death if not treated promptly. Symptoms occur after 1-6 days of exposure.
- Septicemic:** fever, chills, abdominal pain, shock, and bleeding into the skin and other organs.
- Treatment:** Antibiotics are highly effective if used within 24 hours of exposure.
- Diagnosis:** Laboratory testing.
- Prevention:**
- Antibiotics may be given to people who had close contact with an infected individual to prevent infection.
  - Rodent control around house.
  - Apply flea control products to pets.
  - Use repellent while performing outdoor activities.
- What can you do?** Follow the prevention actions listed above.
- Whom do you call?** Division of Public Health, Office of Infectious Disease  
Epidemiology: 1-888-295-5156.
- For more information:** Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website:  
[www.cdc.gov/plague](http://www.cdc.gov/plague).

**24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156**

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