

# Plague Facts

Plague is a disease that affects humans and other mammals, caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. There are three types of plague, and symptoms may depend on which type a person has: bubonic, pneumonic and septicemic.

## How is plague spread?

Plague can be spread to humans and other mammals in many ways. The most common ways include:

- Being bitten by a flea.
- By touching or holding a person or animal, (including tissue and/or body fluids) infected with plague.
- By coughing or sneezing on another person.

## What are the symptoms of plague?

Symptoms of the plague are often similar to symptoms of the flu. The most common symptoms of plague are:

- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Weakness
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Cough
- Abdominal pain
- Tender, swollen and painful lymph nodes
- Discoloration of skin or other tissue
- Bloody or watery mucous

Without prompt treatment, the disease can cause serious illness or death.

## Who is at most at risk?

- People who live in the western United States, including Colorado.
- Veterinarians or others who work with animals that may be infected.
- People who camp, hunt or hike in areas where plague-infected animals live.

## What should I do if I think I have plague?

- People who think they have been exposed to plague, and do not feel well, should immediately go to the hospital.
- Tell your doctor or care provider that you may have been exposed to plague.
- Very sick patients require immediate, intensive care.

## How is plague treated?

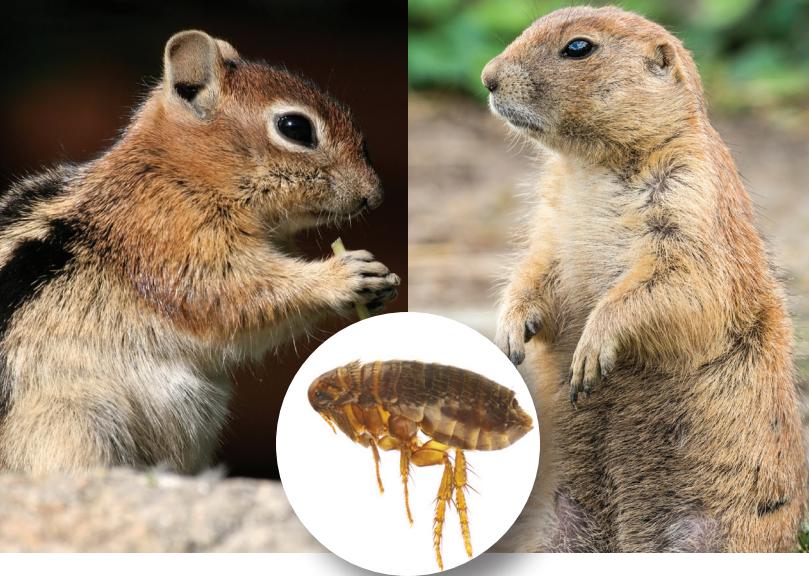
- Antibiotics should be given within 24 hours of first symptoms.

## How can I prevent plague?

- Remove brush, rock piles, junk and cluttered firewood where rodents may be living/hiding.
- Store pet and wild animal food in containers that rodents cannot easily access.
- Wear gloves when handling potentially infected animals.
- Use repellent when going outdoors.
- Keep fleas off of your pets by applying flea control products.

*SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Denver Public Health, Mayo Clinic*

**For more information, call Denver Public Health at (303) 602-3614.**



# Datos sobre la peste

La peste es una enfermedad causada por la bacteria *Yersinia pestis* que afecta a los seres humanos y a otros mamíferos. Hay tres tipos de peste, y los síntomas pueden depender del tipo de peste que tiene la persona: peste bubónica, neumónica y septicémica.

## ¿Cómo se propaga la peste?

La peste se puede propagar a los seres humanos y a otros mamíferos de muchas formas. Las formas más comunes son:

- Al sufrir picaduras de pulgas.
- Al tocar o sostener a una persona o animal (incluyendo tejidos o fluidos corporales) infectados con la peste.
- Al toser o estornudar sobre otra persona.

## ¿Cuáles son los síntomas de la peste?

Los síntomas de la peste a menudo son similares a los síntomas de la gripe. Los síntomas más comunes de la peste son:

- Fiebre
- Escalofríos
- Dolor de cabeza
- Debilidad
- Dolor en el pecho
- Dificultad para respirar
- Tos
- Dolor abdominal
- Inflamación y dolor en los ganglios linfáticos
- Decoloración de la piel u otros tejidos
- Sangre o irritación en las mucosas

Si no se recibe tratamiento pronto, la enfermedad puede ser grave o causar la muerte.

**Para recibir más información, llame a Salud Pública de Denver (Denver Public Health) al (303) 602-3614.**

FUENTES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Denver Public Health, Mayo Clinic