

Plague



Plague is a disease that affects humans and other mammals. It is caused by the bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*. Humans usually get plague after being bitten by a rodent flea that is carrying the plague bacterium or by handling an animal infected with plague. Plague is infamous for killing millions of people in Europe during the Middle Ages. Today, modern antibiotics are effective in treating plague. Without prompt treatment, the disease can cause serious illness or death. Presently, human plague infections continue to occur in the western United States, but significantly more cases occur in parts of Africa and Asia.



INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Answers for clinicians, public health officials, and veterinarians...

ECOLOGY AND TRANSMISSION

How plague is transmitted...

SYMPTOMS

Important signs and symptoms of plague...

HISTORY

Plague -- past and present...

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

What to expect from your physician...

RESOURCES

Scientific references and other links...

PREVENTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answers to the most common inquiries...

Current Plague Outbreak in Madagascar

As of October 6, 2017, the following [Travel Notice](#) is in place for visitors to Madagascar.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also provides worldwide [plague outbreak news updates](#) and [situation reports](#).

Related Links

- **Fact Sheet**
 - [English](#) [PDF - 2 pages]
 - [Spanish](#) [PDF - 2 pages]