

Plague



Plague is a very serious disease. It is caused by a bacteria sometimes found in rats, squirrels, other rodents, and their fleas. There are different kinds of plague: bubonic plague, pneumonic plague, and septicemic plague.

Bubonic Plague *(most common)*

How could I get it?	You can get <i>bubonic</i> plague if: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are bitten by an infected rodent or flea, or• The bacteria get into an open wound or cut.
Is it dangerous?	Yes. If you do not get medical help right away, you could die.
Is it contagious?	No. You cannot get bubonic plague from another person.
What are the symptoms?	The first symptoms start within 2-6 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever• Chills• Headache• Weakness• Swollen and tender glands in the neck, underarms or groin Later you may get another kind of plague, called <i>septicemic</i> .

Pneumonic Plague

How could I get it?	You can get <i>pneumonic</i> plague if: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are near an infected person or animal, or• You breathe mist or vapor, released in a terrorist attack.
Is it dangerous?	Yes. If you do not get medical help right away, you could die. Anyone who was near you needs to be treated, too.
Is it contagious?	Yes. You can get pneumonic plague from someone who already has it.
What are the symptoms?	The first symptoms start within 1-3 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever• Weakness• Headache In a few days, you will have pneumonia and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shortness of breath,• Chest pain and cough. (Sometimes with bloody or watery mucus.) Later you may get another kind of plague, called <i>septicemic</i> .

How could I get *septicemic* plague?

You could get it if you are bitten by an infected rodent or flea. Or it can be a complication of bubonic or pneumonic plague.

The symptoms are like bubonic plague, but you also have:

- Abdominal pain,
- Shock, and
- Patches of blood under your skin, like bruises.

What if I think I have plague?

Call your doctor or hospital **right away**. You must get medical help immediately, or you could die.



For more information...

Call CDC for information in English or Spanish:
800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)
888-232-6348 (TTY)

Or visit: www.bt.cdc.gov
www.dhs.ca.gov/epo