

What is **PLAGUE**?

A disease that affects humans and other mammals. It is caused by the bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*.

Common forms of the **plague**:

- Bubonic Plague (*most common*)
- Septicemic Plague (*occurs when plague bacteria multiply in the bloodstream*)
- Pneumonic Plague (*occurs when plague bacteria infect the lungs*)



How do people get Plague?



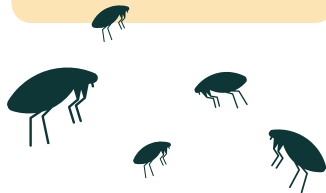
Touching or skinning infected animals (such as prairie dogs, squirrels, rats, and rabbits)



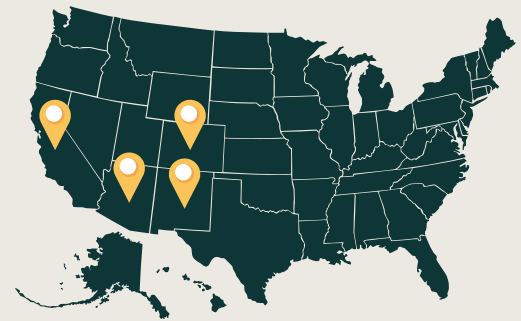
Bites of infected fleas



Inhaling droplets from the cough of an infected person or animal (especially sick cats)



Where does the plague occur?



Plague occurs naturally in the **Western United States**, particularly **Arizona, California, Colorado, and New Mexico**.

Symptoms

Bubonic Plague

- Swollen and/or painful lymph node (*usually in groin, armpit, or neck*)
- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Extreme exhaustion

Septicemic Plague

- High Fever
- Exhaustion
- Light headedness
- Abdominal Pain

Pneumonic Plague

- High fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing up bloody mucus

Sources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/plague/diagnosis/index.html>
- https://www.cdc.gov/plague/resources/235098_Plaguefactsheet_508.pdf



Treatment

- Treatable with commonly available antibiotics
- The earlier a patient seeks medical care and receives treatment that is appropriate for plague, the better their chances are of full recovery

Testing

Diagnosis is made by taking samples from the patient, especially blood or part of a swollen lymph gland, and submitting them for laboratory testing.

Prevention

Protect you and your family



Eliminate nesting places for rodents around homes, sheds, garages



Avoid picking up or touching dead animals



Wear gloves if you must handle sick or dead animals



Report sick or dead animals to the local health department or law enforcement officials

Protect your pets



Treat dogs and cats for fleas regularly



Keep pet food in rodent-proof containers



Take sick pets to the veterinarian promptly



Do not allow pets to hunt or roam in rodent habitat, such as prairie dog colonies

Disclaimer: This information does not constitute medical advice or a doctor-patient relationship

