

*For more information...*

**Telephone:**

- The Indiana State Department of Health,  
1-317-233-1325
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
Atlanta, Georgia, toll free  
1-800-311-3435

**Internet:**

- Indiana State Department of Health  
<http://statehealth.in.gov/bioterrorism>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<http://www.cdc.gov/bt/plague>

Indiana State Department of Health  
2 North Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

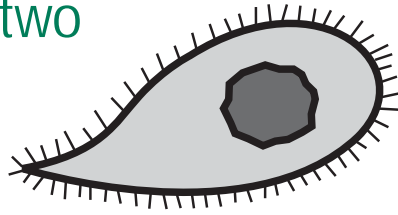


Indiana State  
Department of Health



*Prepared by the Indiana State Department of Health  
from information provided by the  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Plague is two diseases caused by bacteria



The germs are carried by rats, prairie dogs, and other rodents.



There are two kinds of plague

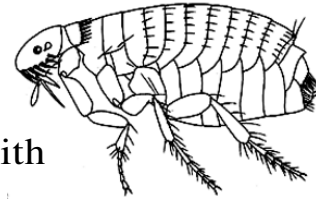
- bubonic (boo-bon-ick)
- pneumonic (new-mon-ick)

Only doctors can test to know if someone has plague.

The two kinds of plague act differently

**Bubonic plague**

- Is not spread from person to person.
  - It spreads by bites from fleas that have bitten animals with plague.
- Sickness begins 1-8 days after being bitten by an infected flea.
  - fever, chills, weakness;
  - sore lumps under the skin (“bubos”).



**Pneumonic plague**

- Can be spread from person to person.
  - Usually through liquids from the nose and mouth
  - It can also be caused by bubonic plague getting into the lungs.
- Sickness begins in 1-4 days.
  - pneumonia, chest pains, difficult breathing, coughing.

Plague can be treated

**Antibiotics are used to treat both kinds of plagues.**

- People with pneumonic plague may need more special care.

**There is no vaccine to prevent plague.**

**People can lower the chances of getting plague by**

- controlling rats, mice, and other rodents;
- staying away from wild animals;
- staying away from people who have pneumonic plague.
  - Pneumonic plague is very rare.