

*For more information...*

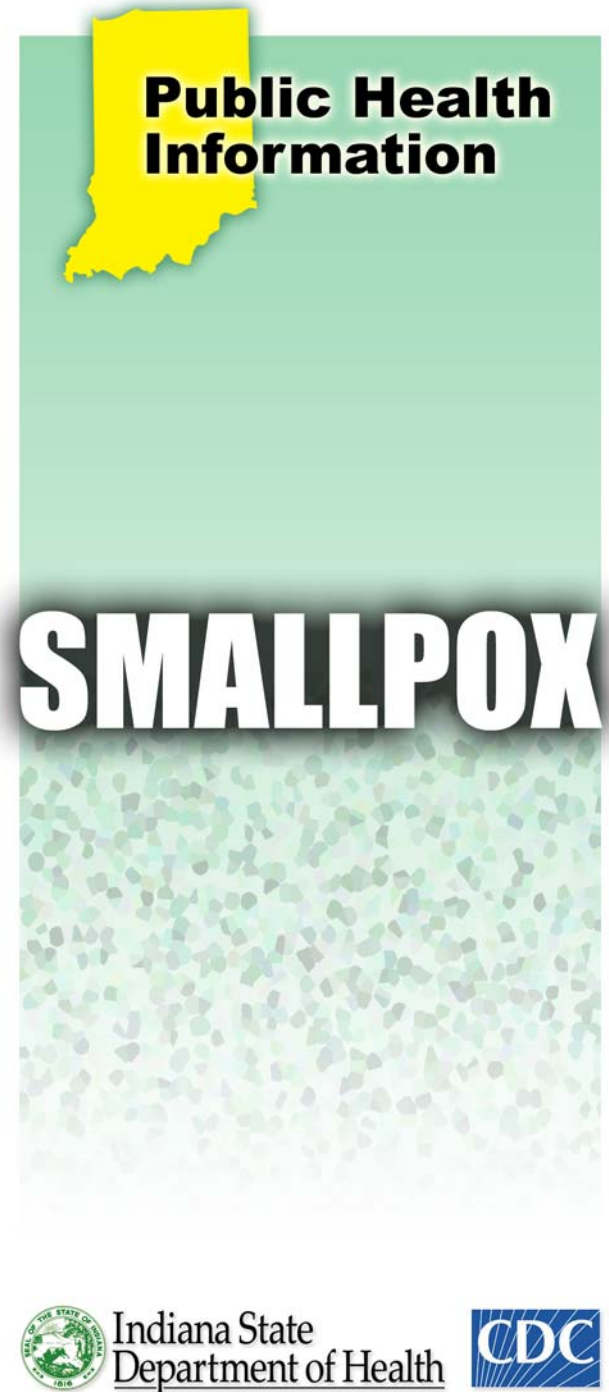
**Telephone:**

- 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/smallpox>

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



The poster features a yellow outline of the state of Indiana in the top left corner. To its right, the text "Public Health Information" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "SMALLPOX" is displayed in a very large, bold, white, sans-serif font with a black drop shadow. The background of the poster is a light green color with a pattern of small, darker green and blue speckles. At the bottom, there are logos for the Indiana State Department of Health and the CDC, along with a line of text.

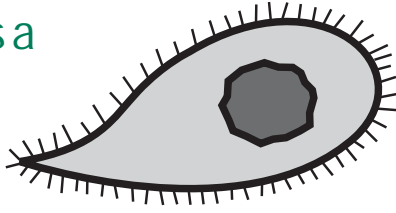


Indiana State  
Department of Health



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

## Smallpox is a disease



### A virus causes it.

- Only humans can get smallpox.

### Smallpox no longer occurs naturally in the world.

- In 1980 it was eliminated from the world by vaccination.
- If it occurs again, it would be because laboratory samples were deliberately spread.

### Smallpox and chickenpox are different.

- Smallpox starts with a high fever.
- Smallpox makes many sores on the palms of hands and soles of feet.
- A doctor can easily tell the difference.

## Smallpox is known by the rash it causes

### Symptoms

- About two weeks after getting the virus
  - a person gets a high fever and feels very sick.
- 2-3 days after the fever starts
  - small, colored bumps appear in the throat;
  - the rash spreads to the chest, back, and legs.
- The rash changes over the next two weeks
  - the bumps become round, hard blisters;
  - the pimples scab over;
  - the scabs fall off.

### Smallpox spreads mostly from person to person.

- A person can only spread the disease when they have the rash.
- Usually it requires close personal contact, for hours, to pass the disease.
- Once the scabs fall off the pox, a person can no longer spread the disease.

### The smallpox virus is easily killed outside the body.

- It will die if exposed to sunlight for a short time.
- Most household cleaners (bleach) will kill it.

## The disease and its spread can be prevented

### There is a vaccine that protects people.

- It prevents or lessens the disease.
  - If given up to four days after exposure.
- If smallpox occurs again, people vaccinated years ago would be vaccinated again.
- There is vaccine for everyone in the United States.

### Once symptoms start

- there is no cure;
- for every three people who get sick with smallpox, about one will die from it;
- people are treated for the symptoms they have (“supportive care”).

### Vaccination, isolation, and quarantine prevent the spread of smallpox.

- People exposed to the virus are vaccinated.
- People who have the disease are “isolated” from those who don’t.
  - in hospital rooms or other places that keep germs from spreading.
- People who might have the disease but not be showing it yet are “quarantined.”
  - They are kept from coming in close contact with other people.
  - This might be done at a hospital or at home.