

1. What is Plague?

It is an infection caused by the bacterium *Yersinia Pestis*. The bacteria is mainly found in rats and fleas that feed on them.

2. How IS IT spread?

People and other animals can get plague from rat or fleas bites. There are three forms of plague namely,

- Bubonic plague which causes the inflammation of tonsils, adenoids, spleen and thymus.
- Septicemic plague in which the bacteria multiple in blood, and
- Pneumonic plague whereby the bacteria enter the lungs and cause pneumonia.

3. How can the spread be limited?

The spread of the Pneumonic plague in people can move from one person to other hence they are known as bioterror agent.

4. Symptoms:

The symptoms of:

- Bubonic plague: fever, aches, tender lymph glands and chills.
- Septicemic plague: fever, chills, shock and bleeding under the skin or other organs.
- Pneumonic plague:

5. What to do if you or your child has symptoms?

Diagnosed patients may be hospitalized or be treated at home.

6. Take medications as prescribed:

The infection is treated with strong antibiotics.

7. Who should be tested?

Anyone who comes into contact with the infected person should receive a treatment especially with pneumonia plague.

*The source of most of this information is from the website: Mediline Plus Medical Encyclopedia