

# PLAGUE



## Human Prevention

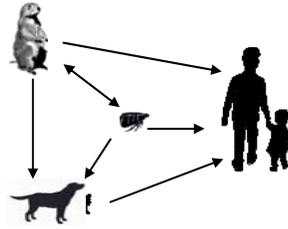
### WHAT IS PLAGUE?

Plague is an infectious disease that may be found in wild rodents and may spread to humans.

**People get plague from an infected flea or direct contact with an infected animal.**

- **Plague has emerged in** some rodents in Western **South Dakota.**
- **Cats and dogs can contract plague** and infect their owners.
- Livestock are not affected.
- **No human vaccine.**
- A person usually becomes ill **2-6 days** after exposure.
- **SYMPTOMS:**
  - Painful & swollen glands
  - Fever and chills
  - Headache
  - Extreme tiredness
- **Plague in humans is curable with antibiotics, but can be fatal.**

### How Plague is Spread



## PREVENT PLAGUE

### AVOID FLEAS!

**STAY OUT** of prairie dog towns! If you must enter these areas:

- **Wear insect repellent** containing DEET
- **Tuck pants** into socks
- Spray clothing with **permethrin** insecticide

**KEEP PETS AWAY** from prairie dog towns! Use flea collars or flea powder and keep pets out of rodent habitats. **Pets with plague can transmit the illness to humans – DO NOT SLEEP WITH YOUR PETS!**

**DO NOT TOUCH, MOVE, OR SKIN** sick or dead rodents!

**ELIMINATE** sources of rodent food and shelter around your house:

- clear plants and clutter away from outside walls
- set traps
- flea powder on rodent burrows

**SIZE of flea** → .

South Dakota Department of Health



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