

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 & 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
- Pour flea powder on rodent burrows

SIZE of a flea → ·



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