

Protect Yourself and Pets from Plague

ILLNESS IN PEOPLE

Fever

Headache

Weakness

Pain or swelling of the groin, armpit or neck

Cough or shortness of breath



WHAT IS PLAGUE?

Plague is found naturally in the western part of the United States, including northern Arizona. Plague is caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. Plague is spread by fleas and circulates in wild rodent and rabbit populations.

HOW CAN I GET IT?

Signs of plague usually occur within 2-6 days after exposure to the bacteria. People can be exposed after being bitten by fleas carrying the bacteria or by direct contact with tissues and fluids from infected animals. Sometimes plague is spread by breathing in infected droplets.

ILLNESS IN ANIMALS

Fever

Lethargy

Anorexia

Swelling around mouth



HOW DO ANIMALS GET IT?

Animals, especially cats, can become sick from this bacteria if they are bitten by fleas. Cats that hunt or play with rabbits or rodents and have direct contact with that wild animal can become sick.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND MY PETS?

~Avoid contact with sick or dead animals.



~Reduce nesting places for rodents around homes.

~Do not allow pets to roam in areas where rodents live.

~Use insect repellent to prevent flea bites.

~Visit a health care provider if signs of plague occur.

~Use flea prevention on dogs and cats.

~Contact a veterinarian if a pet shows signs of illness.

**QUESTIONS?
CALL**

Local County
Public Health Department
OR
AZ Department of Health Services
Office of Infectious Disease
602-364-3676
www.azhealth.gov/website

Visit www.cdc.gov/plague for more information

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

