



# Smallpox Disease and Transmission

## Smallpox Disease

<p><b>How do you get smallpox?</b></p>	<p>You can get smallpox by being exposed to the virus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are in an area where the virus is used as a weapon.</li> <li>• If you get near a person who is sick with smallpox and has the rash.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How is smallpox used as a bioterrorist weapon?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The smallpox virus can be stored and used as a weapon to make people sick.</li> <li>• If someone releases the virus, people nearby could be at risk.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do I protect myself?</b></p>	<p><b>A vaccination can keep you from getting smallpox.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay at least 6 feet away from a person who is sick with smallpox.</li> <li>• By not touching a sick person's skin, clothing, sheets, or blanket.</li> </ul> <p><b>You can't get smallpox from some one else:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the rash in the mouth appears.</li> <li>• After the scabs from the rash have fallen off.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you think you have been exposed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call your doctor.</li> <li>• Vaccination within 72 hours of contact can help reduce symptoms and disease.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Symptoms?</b></p>	<p>When someone gets smallpox:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the first 7-17 days the person doesn't feel sick.</li> <li>• Then the person will have flu-like symptoms, with a high fever and severe backache. This may last 2-4 days.</li> <li>• The person then gets a rash in the mouth and throat. Then the person is very contagious.</li> <li>• The rash and sore spread to all part of the body.</li> <li>• Eventually the sores turn into big pimples and then scab over.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disease Development?</b></p>	<p>Smallpox is most easily passed to other during the first 10 days after the rash occurs.</p>
<p><b>Treatment?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no antibiotic treatment for smallpox, only supportive treatment.</li> <li>• There is enough smallpox vaccine for everyone in the United States to get vaccinated, if needed.</li> <li>• At present, only health care, emergency response and military pople are ving vaccinated.</li> </ul>