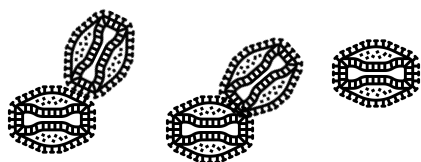
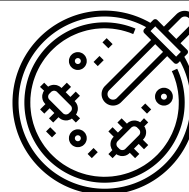


Smallpox

Fact Sheet



Smallpox was an infectious disease caused by the variola virus. Smallpox has been eradicated, with no naturally occurring cases since 1977.



Smallpox no longer occurs naturally. It is possible that this virus could be used in a biological attack.

Symptoms



High Fever



Head and Body Aches



Vomiting



A rash develops that can spread over the whole body. This rash starts with blister-like bumps with a soft center. The blisters turn into very round and firm raised bumps. These bumps will crust, scab, and fall off after about three weeks, leaving a pitted scar.



Smallpox was spread from person-to-person, usually by coughing or sneezing. Less often, people became sick from touching fluid from open sores and scabs or through contaminated items like bedding.

Prevention & Treatment

- Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent smallpox. Since smallpox has been eradicated, the vaccine is not routinely available.
- There is no treatment for smallpox. Some drugs may help treat or prevent symptoms from getting worse.



For More Information



Contact your doctor or the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention at 1-800-821-5821 for more information.

You can also visit www.cdc.gov/smallpox.