

Oregon Resident Diagnosed with the Plague

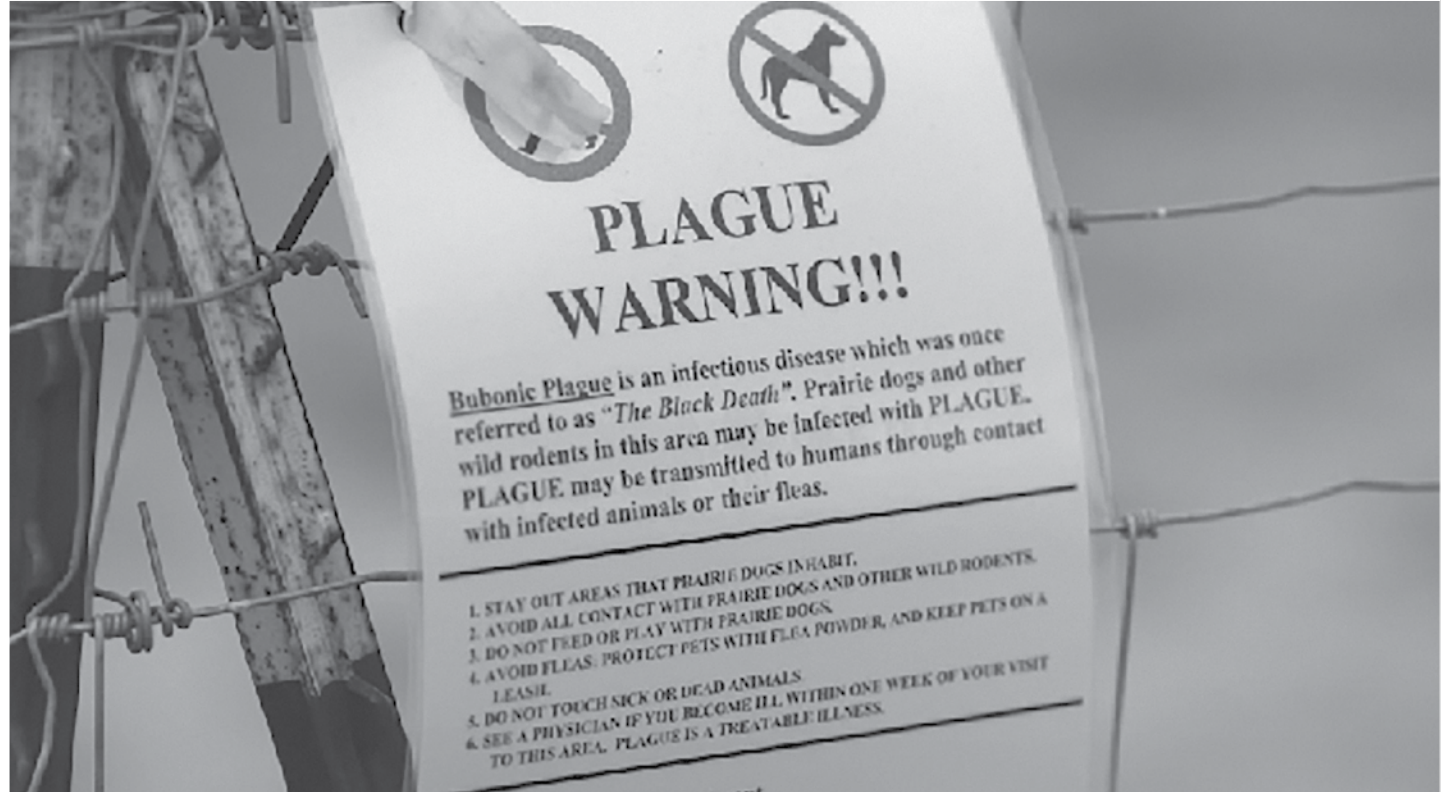
A Few Things to Know About the Illness

Officials in central Oregon this week reported a case of bubonic plague in a resident who likely got the disease from a sick pet cat.

The infected resident and the resident's close contacts have all been provided medication, public health officials say, and people in the community are not believed to be at risk. The cat was also treated but did not survive.

Plague isn't common, but it also isn't unheard of in the western United States, where a handful of cases occur every year. It's different from Alaskapox, a rare, recently discovered disease that killed a man in Alaska last month. Plague is an infectious disease that can affect mammals. It's caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, which is carried by rodents and fleas. Sunlight and drying can kill plague bacteria on surfaces, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Humans and pets suspected to be sick with plague are typically treated with antibiotics, and sometimes with other medical measures.

Plague symptoms can manifest in a few ways. Bubonic plague — the kind contracted by the Oregon resident —



A bubonic plague warning sign is displayed at a parking lot near the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019, in Commerce City, Colo. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)

happens when the plague bacteria gets into the lymph nodes. It can cause fever, headache, weakness and painful, swollen lymph nodes. It usually happens from the bite of an infected flea, according to the CDC.

Septicemic plague symptoms happen if the bacteria gets into the bloodstream. It can occur initially or after bubonic plague goes untreated. This form of

plague causes the same fever, chills and weakness, as well as abdominal pain, shock and sometimes other symptoms like bleeding into the skin and blackened fingers, toes or the nose. The CDC says this form comes from flea bites or from handling an infected animal.

Pneumonic plague is the most serious form of the disease, and it occurs when the bacteria gets into the lungs. Pneumonic

plague adds rapidly developing pneumonia to the list of plague symptoms. It is the only form of plague that can be spread from person to person by inhaling infectious droplets.

All forms of plague are treatable with common antibiotics, and people who seek treatment early have a better chance of a full recovery, according to the CDC.

Questions about your health care?

Find us in your neighborhood.



FEBRUARY 22
Mobile Showers
12-2 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

FEBRUARY 26
Doreen's Place (for residents only)
12-2:30 p.m.
610 NW Broadway St, Portland

FEBRUARY 27
Union Gospel Mission
2-3 p.m.
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland

MARCH 4
Mobile Showers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

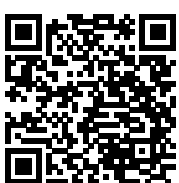
MARCH 5
Resource Center
9-11 a.m.
650 NW Irving St, Portland
River District Navigation Center
(for residents only)
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
1111 NW Naito Pkwy, Portland
Jean's Place
(for residents only)
1:30-3:30 p.m.
18 NE 11th Ave, Portland

MARCH 7
Mobile Showers
12-2 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

MARCH 11
Clark Center
(for residents only)
9-10:30 a.m.
1437 SE MLK Blvd, Portland
Doreen's Place
(for residents only)
12-2:30 p.m.
610 NW Broadway St, Portland

MARCH 12
Union Gospel Mission
2-3 p.m.
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland

MARCH 18
Mobile Showers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland



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