

PNEUMONIC PLAGUE EMERGENCY INFORMATION: TRANSMISSION, PREVENTION, & INFECTION CONTROL

WHAT IS PNEUMONIC PLAGUE?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurs when plague bacteria, <i>Yersinia pestis</i>, infect the lungs. Symptoms include high fever, chills, difficulty breathing, cough, & bloody sputum. Nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain may also occur. • Pneumonic plague is a public health emergency since it is quickly and easily spread through airborne droplets.
TRANSMISSION & INCUBATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person transmission within a 6-foot radius by aerosols expelled from the oropharynx. Remote, airborne transmission between humans has not been described. • Incubation period is usually 2-4 days (range 1-6 days) with death following shortly thereafter in untreated patients. • Patients are contagious from the onset of respiratory symptoms until the completion of 48 hours of therapy and significant clinical improvement occurs. Deceased individuals who have not been treated or treated less than 48 hours should be considered to be contagious. • Transmission can take place by breathing in <i>Yersinia pestis</i> particles, which could happen in an aerosol release during a bioterrorism attack.
HOW LONG CAN PLAGUE BACTERIA EXIST IN THE ENVIRONMENT?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yersinia pestis</i> is easily destroyed by sunlight and drying. When released into air, the bacterium will survive for up to one hour, depending on conditions.
DECONTAMINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally not necessary unless gross contamination is evident
POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS / IMMUNIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doxycycline 100 mg or Ciprofloxacin 500 mg orally twice daily for 7 days
PRECAUTIONS FOR STAFF WITHOUT PATIENT CONTACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No special precautions or prophylaxis are recommended for staff who have no contact with patients or their immediate environment such as materials and equipment associated with their care.
PRECAUTIONS FOR STAFF WITH PATIENT CONTACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCW leaves gown, gloves, & mask in red biohazard bag • Standard Precautions: hand-washing or alcohol gel; gloves & long-sleeved gown as needed • Droplet Precautions: surgical mask with goggles or face shield in addition to standard precautions • Add contact precautions if bubonic plague is also suspected
PATIENT PRECAUTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical mask to patient's mouth and nose until placement in private room • Isolate in private room • Keep door closed
ENVIRONMENTAL PRECAUTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow routine housekeeping cleaning with 0.5% hypochlorite or EPA approved disinfectant • Terminal cleaning wearing long-sleeved gown, gloves, surgical mask & goggles or face shield; room door closed • Biohazard waste disposal for disposable items, including cleaning supplies &

	<p>solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place linens in biohazard bag and discard• Routine cleaning/Disinfection of non-disposable items
--	--