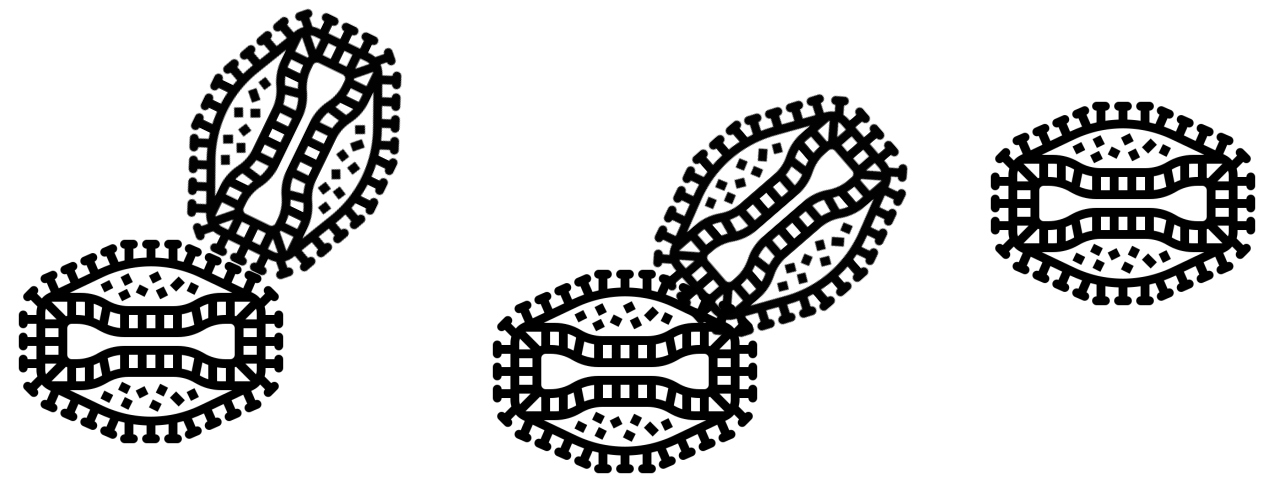
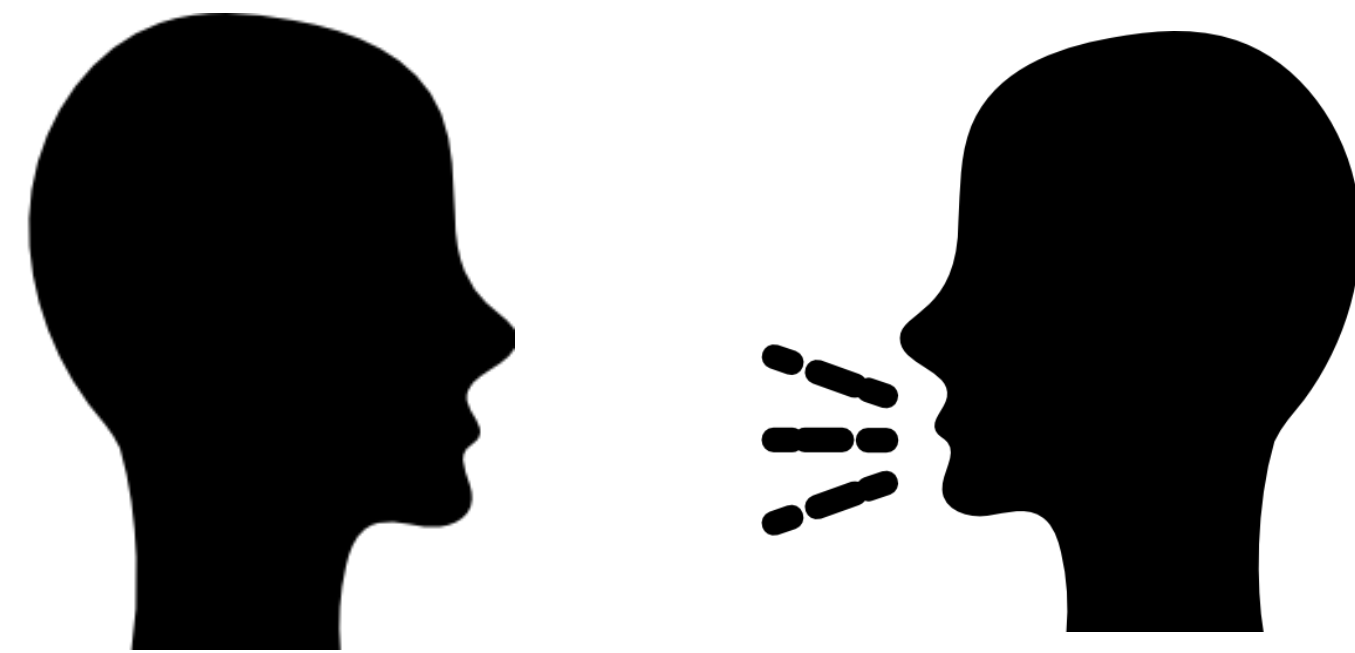


Smallpox

Fact Sheet



Smallpox is a serious disease caused by the variola virus. Thanks to the success of vaccination programs, smallpox was eradicated.



It is spread from person-to-person, usually by coughing or sneezing. Rarely, people get sick from touching fluid from open sores and scabs or through contaminated items like bedding.

Signs and Symptoms



High Fever



Head and Body Aches



Rash



Vomiting

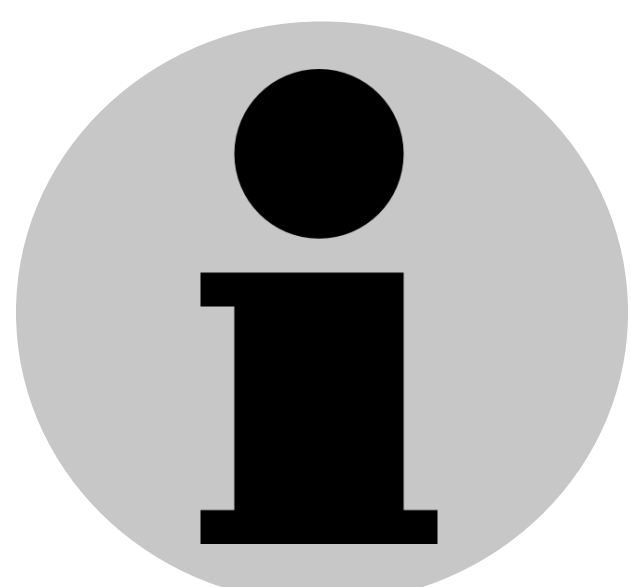
Smallpox starts with high fever, head and body aches, and sometimes vomiting. A rash develops that spreads and becomes raised bumps and pus-filled blisters. These will crust, scab, and fall off after about three weeks, leaving a pitted scar. Symptoms often appear 17 to 19 days after the virus enters the body, with an average of 10 to 14 days.

Prevention & Treatment

- Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent smallpox. While it is not widely available, vaccine can be provided in an emergency.
- There is no proven treatment for smallpox. Some drugs may help treat it or prevent it 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.
