

If you or someone you live with has any of the following conditions, consult with your health care provider prior to getting the smallpox vaccination:

- Pregnant and breastfeeding women
- Children under 12 months of age
- Adults 65 and older
- People with skin conditions (especially eczema and atopic dermatitis)
- People with weakened immune systems, such as those who have received a transplant, are HIV positive, are receiving treatment for cancer, or are taking medications (like steroids) that suppress the immune system
- People with heart disease, with or without symptoms

In addition, anyone with allergies to any of the following antibiotics may not be eligible for the vaccine:

- Polymyxin B, streptomycin, chlortetracycline hydrochloride and neomycin.

In the event of an outbreak, or if you have been exposed to smallpox, you should consider getting vaccinated even when you have one of the conditions described above.

How will I know if there is an outbreak?

The New Haven Health Department is preparing detailed plans to ensure the public's health in case of a smallpox outbreak. If there is an outbreak, you will be informed through radio, TV, newspaper alerts and the City's website.

Where should I go if there is an outbreak?

The New Haven Health Department will establish clinics at select sites that can handle large numbers of people in order to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, and in a manner that is efficient and safe. You will be instructed where and when to go to the vaccination clinic. The vaccine will not be available to the general public from private physicians or the local hospitals.

Where can I obtain more information?

- **New Haven Health Department:**
(203) 946-6999
 - Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
English: (888) 246-2675
Español: (888) 246-2857
TTY: (866) 874-2646
- On the Internet:
- *New Haven Health Department*
<http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/govt/gov21.htm>
 - *Smallpox Basics*
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/basics/index.asp>
 - *Smallpox Questions and Answers: The Disease and the Vaccine*
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/overview/faq.asp>
 - *Información sobre la viruela (smallpox)*
<http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/bt/default.htm#viruela>

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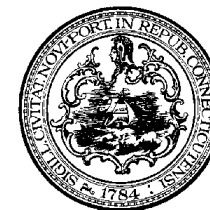
A COMMUNITY PREPARED

**INFORMATION ABOUT
SMALLPOX**

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
THE NEW HAVEN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

John DeStefano, Jr., Mayor

William P. Quinn, M.P.H.
Director of Health



1998

Since the events of September 11, 2001, the New Haven Health Department has worked closely with public safety and medical agencies to protect the public in the event of future bioterrorism incidents.

The U.S. government is preparing for the **remote possibility** that smallpox might be deliberately released as a weapon. **The probability of the intentional release of the smallpox virus is low**, but since the consequences of an outbreak would be great, we must be prepared. The New Haven Health Department is following Federal and State guidelines in developing plans to respond to a smallpox outbreak.

Please take the time to review some basic information about smallpox, the smallpox vaccine, and how the New Haven Health Department is preparing to handle a smallpox incident.

What is smallpox?

Smallpox is a serious, highly contagious, and sometimes fatal infectious disease that is caused by a virus.

How is smallpox spread?

Smallpox normally spreads from contact with an infected person. Generally, direct and fairly prolonged face-to-face contact is required to spread smallpox from one person to another. Smallpox also can be spread through direct contact with infected bodily fluids or contaminated objects such as bedding or clothing. In very rare situations,

smallpox has been spread by virus carried in the air in enclosed settings such as buildings, buses, and trains.

What are the symptoms of smallpox?

The symptoms of smallpox begin with high fever, head and body aches, and sometimes vomiting. A rash follows that spreads and progresses to raised bumps that crust, scab, and fall off after about three weeks, leaving a pitted scar.

Can smallpox be fatal?

The majority of patients with smallpox recover, but death may occur in up to 30% of cases. Many smallpox survivors have permanent scars over large areas of their body, especially their face. Some are left blind.

If someone comes in contact with smallpox, how long does it take to show symptoms?

After exposure, it takes between 7 and 17 days for symptoms of smallpox to appear (usually 12 to 14 days). During this time, the infected person feels fine and is not contagious.

Is smallpox contagious before the symptoms show?

A person with smallpox is sometimes contagious when fever begins, but becomes most contagious with the onset of the cough and rash. The infected person is contagious until the last smallpox scab falls off.

Is there any treatment for smallpox?

There is no specific treatment for smallpox disease.

What is the smallpox vaccine?

The smallpox vaccine is the only way to prevent smallpox. The vaccine is made from a virus called *vaccinia* that is related to smallpox. It does **not** contain the smallpox virus and **cannot** spread smallpox. The smallpox vaccine helps the body develop immunity to smallpox. The smallpox vaccine provides the best available protection from exposure to the smallpox virus.

Is the smallpox vaccine safe?

Most people experience normal, usually mild reactions to the vaccine that include a sore arm, fever, and body aches. However, the vaccine does have some risks. Some people may experience reactions that may require medical attention.

If someone is exposed to smallpox, is it too late to get a vaccination?

Vaccination within 3 days of exposure will completely prevent or significantly lessen the severity of smallpox symptoms in the vast majority of persons. Vaccination 4-7 days after exposure likely offers some protection from disease or may modify the seriousness of disease.

Do I have to be vaccinated?

Smallpox vaccination is voluntary. However, it is highly recommended in the event of an outbreak.