

SUMMARY

Disease	Plague
Agent	<i>Yersinia pestis</i>
Indications of Terrorist Release versus Natural Incidence	In a bioterrorism attack, <i>Y. pestis</i> would likely be released as an aerosol and inhaled; a large number of previously healthy persons rapidly progressing from flulike symptoms to cough, dyspnea, chest pain, to severe pneumonia and death suggestive of attack
Possible Means of Exposure	Inhalation; person-to-person
Incubation	1-8 days
Primary Symptoms	Fulminant onset w/ high fever, chills, headache, extreme malaise, and myalgias; cough and hemoptysis w/in 24 hrs; nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain may also occur
Diagnostic Tools of Choice	Gram/Wright stain, culture, serology
Treatment	Streptomycin or penicillin
Post-Exposure Prophylaxis	Doxycycline or ciprofloxacin
Vaccine	No longer available (discontinued by its manufacturers in 1999)