

SUMMARY

Disease	Smallpox
Agent	Variola major
Indications of Terrorist Release <i>versus</i> Natural Incidence	Even one confirmed case of smallpox would indicate a probable terrorist attack
Possible Means of Exposure	Inhalation of airborne droplets; contact with skin lesions, secretions, or clothing or bedding
Incubation	7-17 days
Primary Symptoms	Initial symptoms are flulike, including fever, vomiting, myalgias, physical exhaustion; rash appears ~ day 12 post-exposure, at which point pt becomes contagious; then formation of a macular rash → papules → vesicles → pustules → scabs, most densely on face and limbs, including palms and soles of feet (i.e., centrifugal distribution, unlike chickenpox, in which lesions are distributed evenly over the body, beginning on the trunk); lesions go through stages at same time (unlike chickenpox, where new lesions form and scab over at different times)
Diagnostic Tools of Choice	Culture followed by PCR and RFLP
Treatment	Vaccination up to 4 days after exposure
Post-Exposure Prophylaxis	Vaccination
Vaccine	Currently available to high-risk groups