

Fast Facts

Smallpox

- Caused by the variola virus
- Contagious
- Transmitted through droplets released in the air when a person coughs, sneezes or talks
- Symptoms typically appear 10 – 14 days after infection
- Aren't infectious during the incubation period
- Symptoms come on suddenly
- Was eradicated worldwide by 1980 due to an unprecedented global immunization campaign
- Last natural outbreak of smallpox in the United States happened in 1949

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<p><i>Early:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fever -Headache -Severe fatigue -Overall discomfort -Severe back pain -Vomiting (occasionally) <p><i>Late:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Flat, red, spots on your face, hands and forearms, then torso -Spots to turn into blisters initially filled with clear fluid then pus -Blisters scab over and fall off leaving behind deep, pitted scars -Lesions inside nose/ mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No cure -Relieve symptoms -Prevent dehydration -Antibiotics would only be given if the person developed a secondary bacterial infection in the skin or lungs -Might be able to use antivirals, but no human research as been done due to eradication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prevent spread by keeping infected individuals in isolation -Vaccinate anyone who came into contact with an infected individual within four days of exposure

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