



## SMALLPOX

### WHAT IS SMALLPOX?

SMALLPOX IS AN INFECTIOUS AND SOMETIMES FATAL DISEASE CAUSED BY THE VARIOLA VIRUS, WITH A DISTINCTIVE SKIN RASH.

### WHO GETS SMALLPOX?

SMALLPOX IS PRACTICALLY EXTINCT BUT IT CAN BE USED AS AN AGENT FOR BIOTERRORISM AND INFECT ANYONE IN AN ATTACK.

### HOW IS SMALLPOX SPREAD?

SMALLPOX IS SPREAD BY CONTACT WITH INFECTED PERSONS OR BY INTENTIONAL GERM DISTRIBUTION. DIRECT FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT IS NEEDED TO SPREAD SMALLPOX FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER. SMALLPOX ALSO CAN BE SPREAD THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT WITH INFECTED BODILY FLUIDS OR INFECTED OBJECTS SUCH AS BEDDING OR CLOTHING.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF SMALLPOX?

THE SYMPTOMS OF SMALLPOX BEGIN WITH HIGH FEVER, HEAD AND BODY ACHES, AND SOMETIMES VOMITING. A RASH APPEARS, SPREADS, AND BECOMES RAISED BUMPS AND PUS-FILLED BLISTERS THAT CRUST, SCAB AND FALL OFF AFTER ABOUT THREE WEEKS, LEAVING SCARS.

### HOW SOON AFTER INFECTION DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

AFTER INFECTION, IT TAKES BETWEEN SEVEN AND 17 DAYS FOR SYMPTOMS OF SMALLPOX TO APPEAR.

### WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR SMALLPOX?

VACCINE GIVEN UP TO FOUR DAYS AFTER INFECTION TO THE VIRUS, AND BEFORE THE RASH APPEARS, CAN PREVENT INFECTION OR LESSEN THE DISEASE. NO TREATMENT IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF SMALLPOX?

ONCE SOMEONE HAS THE DISEASE, VACCINATING CONTACTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INFECTED WILL STOP THE SPREAD.