

Resources for More Information

Websites

**Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention (CDC)**
www.bt.cdc.gov

National Immunization Program
www.cdc.gov/nip

New York State Department of Health
www.health.state.ny.us

Onondaga County
www.ongov.net

CDC Hotline
1-888-246-2675 English
1-888-246-2857 Spanish

Hotline Hours:

8:00 am. to 11:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

Smallpox Basics:

 Be Aware

 Get The
Facts

 Know What
to Do

**Onondaga County
Health Department
Public Health
Emergency Preparedness**
435-5251

Be Aware

Onondaga County is Prepared

Currently, there is no known smallpox disease anywhere in the world. Two laboratories store the smallpox virus for official use only. Terrorist groups may use smallpox and other harmful agents as weapons. Carrying out a smallpox attack is difficult, but we must be prepared for it.

Is Onondaga County prepared? Key hospital and public health staff in Onondaga County have been trained to identify and manage patients sick with smallpox. A core group of medical providers has been vaccinated against smallpox, ready to respond if there are ever cases of smallpox.

The United States has enough smallpox vaccine for the entire population in case of an outbreak. If needed, enough vaccine would be available in Onondaga County within twelve hours of request.

In the highly unlikely event of a smallpox outbreak, trained staff will check all contacts of the infected person. All known contacts will be vaccinated and/or isolated to prevent further spread of the disease. There are plans to vaccinate the public if that ever becomes necessary.

Get the Facts

What is smallpox and how is it spread?

Smallpox is a virus that usually spreads from face to face contact mainly through droplets being released when a person sick with the disease sneezes or coughs. People are most able to spread smallpox at the first sign of a rash.

What are the symptoms of Smallpox?

Smallpox may cause: high fever, tiredness, severe headaches and backaches followed by a severe rash which leaves a scar when healed. After exposure, symptoms usually take 12 days to appear. If you think you may have been near someone with smallpox, call your doctor.

Do most people recover from smallpox?

Most people who get smallpox recover. In the past, about 30 percent of people with smallpox died from the disease.

The Smallpox Vaccine

- Smallpox vaccine is made from a live virus called vaccinia. The smallpox vaccine cannot give you smallpox.
- Vaccination is not suggested for the general public.
- If you are exposed to smallpox, the vaccine will protect you from getting the smallpox disease even if given 3 days after the exposure.

Know What to Do

Stay Prepared, Stay Calm.

Be aware, if there is a case of smallpox in the United States, public health officials may require that you get a smallpox vaccine (shot).

The Onondaga County Health Department will give you the steps you need to take to stop the spread of the disease.

If you think you or someone else was exposed to smallpox, call your doctor and the Onondaga County Health Department at (315) 435-3252.

