

	Plague	Rabies	Tularemia	West Nile Virus
Is this found in Pueblo County?	Yes, plague can be found in Pueblo County. In the county, Plague has been found mostly near prairie dog towns.	Yes, most often found in bats and skunks in Pueblo County. Avoid contact with bats, skunks, and other wild animals such as foxes, coyotes, or raccoons that may have rabies.	Yes, tularemia can be found in Pueblo County, and has most often been found throughout Pueblo West.	Yes, each year West Nile virus is found in Pueblo County, mostly in mosquitoes.
How can a human become infected?	Rarely, plague can be transmitted person-to-person through respiratory droplets. Through the bite of an infected flea or by handling infected, sick or dead animals. Pets can carry infected fleas into the home.	Through the bite or bodily fluids of an infected animal. When a bat is found in a room with a sleeping person, infant or toddler, or a person believes they have been bitten by a bat, contact the USDA or the health department immediately. Do not throw away any bat that has been in contact with people or pets.	Through the bite of an infected insect, most commonly ticks and deer flies, or by handling infected, sick, or dead animals (often rabbits). Through dust that has been contaminated by an infected dead animal.	Through the bite of mosquitoes carrying the virus.
What protection should be done for pets?	Keep pets indoors, especially cats. If outdoors, restrain your pets from roaming by keeping them leashed. Use flea/tick control products (powders, drops, etc.) on your pets. The effectiveness of flea/tick repellent collars has not been proven.	Protect your pets by ensuring vaccinations are up-to-date. Puppies and kittens can be vaccinated for rabies as early as four months old. Contact your veterinarian if your dog or cat is bitten or scratched by wild animals such as skunks, bats, foxes, or raccoons.	Keep pets indoors, especially cats. If outdoors, restrain your pets from roaming by keeping them leashed. Use flea/tick control products (powders, drops, etc.) on your pets. The effectiveness of flea/tick repellent collars has not been proven. Avoid allowing your pets to drink from streams or lakes.	No special precautions needed for domesticated animals (dogs and cats).

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Best prevention	<p>Avoid all contact with wild rodents, prairie dogs, squirrels, and rabbits; do not feed or handle them.</p> <p>Never touch sick or dead animals with your bare hands. If an animal must be moved, use a long-handled shovel to place it in a garbage bag and place the bag in an outdoor garbage can.</p> <p>Eliminate places rodents can hide and live. Keep your home and outbuildings as rodent-proof as possible.</p> <p>Use insect repellent with DEET during hiking, camping, working outdoors, or removing dead animals.</p>	<p>Do not feed wild animals or allow your pets around them.</p> <p>Teach children to stay away from wild mammals and all animals unless you have permission to touch a pet.</p> <p>Do not keep pet food outside as that may attract wild animals.</p>	<p>Avoid all contact with wild rodents, squirrels, and rabbits; do not feed or handle them.</p> <p>Never touch sick or dead animals with your bare hands. If an animal must be moved, use a long-handled shovel to place it in a garbage bag and place the bag in an outdoor garbage can.</p> <p>Use insect repellent with DEET during hiking, camping, working outdoors, or removing dead animals.</p> <p>Do not mow over dead animals. Wear a dust mask if activities such as mowing create a lot of dust.</p> <p>Inspect your body for ticks when returning from wooded areas.</p> <p>Remove attached ticks with fine-tipped tweezers.</p>	<p>Follow the Five D's:</p> <p>DRAIN: eliminate standing water</p> <p>DUSK and DAWN: avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active</p> <p>DEET: an effective ingredient to look for in insect repellent</p> <p>DRESS: long-sleeved shirts, pants, shoes, and socks</p>
Symptoms	<p>Fever, chills, headache, weakness, and swollen and painful lymph nodes.</p> <p>Plague can be treated with antibiotics when identified in time.</p>	<p>Rabies symptoms do not develop until onset of the disease, and is nearly 100% fatal.</p> <p>It is key to avoid exposure to wild animals.</p> <p>Report any contact with a wild animal to your medical provider.</p>	<p>Fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, skin ulcers, chest pain, and coughing.</p> <p>Tularemia can be effectively treated with antibiotics when identified.</p>	<p>Fever, fatigue, body aches, meningitis, and encephalitis.</p> <p>There is no specific antiviral treatment for West Nile, treatment of symptoms only.</p>
More Information	cdc.gov/plague	cdc.gov/rabies If bat/skunk has had contact with pets and/or people, or a bat found in the home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · USDA (719) 569-1906 · Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, (719) 583-4998 	cdc.gov/tularemia	fightthebitecolorado.com