

# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Plague Advisory**

(Las Vegas, Nev. – Oct. 4, 2000) – Four gray foxes and one coyote have tested positive for plague in the Mount Charleston area during June through August 2000. The Wildlife Services Division of the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service and the Clark County Health District are advising people to avoid contacts with rodents, to use insect repellent and to protect pets from fleas and ticks. Additionally, dead or sick animals should be avoided and reported to an official at the campground or the Clark County Health District.

Carnivores, such as foxes and coyotes, come in contact with many rodents and are considered “sentinel” animals. While they do not display symptoms of the disease, they serve as possible indicators of a larger outbreak. The animals that tested positive were found in the Kyle Canyon and Lee Canyon areas.

Plague is an acute bacterial illness that is typically transmitted to humans by the bite of infectious fleas (bubonic), direct contact with an infected animal (septicemic), or inhalation of respiratory droplets from an infected animal (pneumonic). The disease is rarely transmitted to humans and when diagnosed early, responds well to antibiotic treatment. Plague is found in rodent populations throughout the western United States mountain ranges. Symptoms of bubonic plague may include a swollen gland, fever, chills, headache, and extreme exhaustion. Anyone exhibiting these symptoms after a possible exposure to infected rodents, rabbits, or fleas should consult their physician.

For more information, contact the Clark County Health District Environmental Health Division at (702) 383-1251, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest at (702) 873-8800, or Wildlife Services at (702) 432-9425.

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