



---

Clark County Health District • Public Information Office • 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89106 • 385-1291

---

## News Release

Contact: Jennifer Sizemore  
(702) 383-1225  
David Tonelli  
(702) 383-6320

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Plague warning issued for Mount Charleston area**

(Las Vegas, Nev., - November 10, 2003) - Four gray foxes have tested positive for plague in the Mount Charleston area. As a result, the Clark County Health District is advising people to take special care to avoid contact with rodents and wild animals. Additionally, people living or visiting the affected area may be exposed to rodent fleas during outdoor activity and should use insect repellent. Pets should be protected with flea and tick collars, and domestic cats should be kept indoors. Dead or sick animals should be avoided and reported to either a state park official or the Clark County Health District.

Plague is an acute bacterial illness frequently found in rodent and wild animal populations throughout the western United States mountain ranges, but rarely in humans. Plague can be transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected flea, direct contact with an infected animal or inhalation of respiratory droplets from an infected animal. Human plague occurs in one of three forms: bubonic plague (the most common), septicemic plague and pneumonic plague. When diagnosed early, all forms of human plague respond well to antibiotic treatment.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of bubonic plague (swollen glands, fever, chills, headache and extreme exhaustion) following exposure to a potentially infected fox, rodent or flea, should consult their physician.

Guidelines for minimizing the spread of plague include monitoring activity in rodent populations where the disease is known to occur; eliminating nesting places around homes, work places and recreation areas; and removing brush, rock piles, junk, cluttered firewood and potential food supplies.

For more information or to report a dead animal, contact the Clark County Health District, (702) 383-1263, or the U.S. Forest Service, (702) 515-5404.

####