

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND DISASTERS

CDC works 24/7 controlling, containing, and eliminating health threats

CDC works 24/7 to keep America safe. Our disease detectives, world-class scientists, and medical experts are ready to stop disease outbreaks and respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike.



CDC disease detectives respond to disease threats.

CDC is on 24/7 fighting contagious disease because:

- A new health threat can appear at any time. New contagious diseases may only be a plane ride away from your hometown.
- Many kinds of viruses and bacteria can threaten people's health and sometimes kill even otherwise healthy people.
- Contagious diseases can spread on their own or through a deliberate bioterror attack.
- Flu already is dangerous -- and new, potentially deadly strains can appear at any time, sparking a pandemic.

CDC fights contagious diseases

Highly contagious: Tuberculosis > CDC helped reduce the number of cases of tuberculosis in the U.S. from 25,103 in 1993 to 11,182 in 2010.

Highly contagious: Flu > CDC identified the 2009 pandemic H1N1 influenza virus. Our vaccination and rapid-information campaigns helped prevent 5-10 million infections, 150,000 hospitalizations, and 1,500 deaths in the U.S.

Highly contagious: Cholera > CDC helped prevent 7,000 cholera deaths after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Highly contagious: Measles > The measles vaccine has saved 13.8 million lives from 2000–2012.

Highly contagious: MERS > Like Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), health threats keep coming -- and CDC stands ready to protect the public's health.

CDC stands guard against health threats from disasters

CDC is on 24/7 because natural and manmade disasters can occur any time, any place. Many different health threats follow in the wake of disasters.

Threat > Outbreak following a natural disaster. CDC investigated a fungal infection associated with victims of the 2011 tornado in Joplin, Missouri, 2011.

Threat > When Japan was struck by an earthquake and tsunami in 2011, a damaged nuclear power plant experienced a meltdown. CDC's scientific support and advice helped minimize the risk.

Threat > Health threats crossing borders. CDC trains health professionals around the world so they can rapidly detect diverse outbreaks in their own countries, stopping them before they become global threats.

When a health threat appears, we may not know right away why or how many people are affected, but we have world-class expertise to find out what is making people sick or die and what to do about it.

CDC is the nation's health protection agency.

To learn more about CDC's 24/7 role in saving lives and protecting people visit About Us:
<http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/>

To view this fact sheet on the web, visit:
<http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/CDCFastFacts/CDCFacts.html>

