



To: Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN) Participants
Date: July 3, 2007

PLAGUE POSITIVE SQUIRREL ON PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

A ground squirrel at Doan Valley Campground on Palomar Mountain tested positive for plague during routine surveillance by the Department of Environmental Health. Flea control measures have been instituted and plague warning signs have been posted. Plague has occasionally been found in the higher elevations of San Diego County.

To date, there have been no reports of locally-acquired human plague in San Diego County. However, the summer weather will likely prompt more camping and hiking among residents and visitors. Healthcare providers are encouraged to consider plague in patients presenting with acute onset of fever, chills, and lymphadenopathy (bubo), particularly in the groin, axilla or cervical region, and a history of visiting, hiking or camping in the rural mountainous areas of the western United States, including San Diego County, within 2-8 days of symptom onset.

Suspect and confirmed cases should be reported immediately to the Community Epidemiology Branch at 619-515-6620 (or 858-565-5255 after hours). Suspected isolates of *Yersinia pestis*, the bacterium that causes plague, may be referred to the San Diego County Public Health Laboratory for rapid identification or rule out.

For more information about plague, please visit the CDC website at:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_plague.htm

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)
County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch
Phone: (619) 515-6620
Fax: (619) 515-6644
Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255
E-mail: eman@sdcounty.ca.gov
Secure Website: <http://sdeman.org>
Public-Access Website: <http://www.emansandiego.com>

*EMAN Alerts are intended for the use of public health, medical and laboratory professionals in San Diego County, should be considered confidential and **NOT BE DISTRIBUTED** further. An online EMAN application is available at the EMAN website (www.emansandiego.com) for appropriate and interested individuals. If you are not an approved EMAN subscriber and have received this communication in error, please reply to this message immediately and then delete it.*