




TOPIC: SMALLPOX

	 <h1>Smallpox (Variola)</h1>	Viral	
CAUSE	Variola (<i>Orthopoxvirus</i>) → infects respiratory tract → vital organs → skin. Smallpox was fully eradicated in 1980.		
SPREAD	Close/direct contact was necessary for spread – mainly via respiratory droplets. Less contagious than measles, but much more _____. Lots of historical significance (~300-500 million smallpox deaths in 20 th century).		
SYMPTOMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Often _____, with a ~30% fatality rate in unvaccinated individuals.◆ Damages organs/tissues (e.g. blood vessels, immune tissues, liver, lungs).◆ High fever, fatigue, _____/lesions on face, arms, legs → rest of body.◆ Lesions evolve from fluid-filled vesicles → pustules → severe scarring.		
DIAGNOSIS	Visual appearance & distribution/location of rash & lesions.		
TREATMENT	No specific treatment.		
IMMUNITY	Smallpox vaccine (smallpox was 1 st disease to be fully eradicated, in 1980).		

(Everett Historical)

References:

Everett Historical. (n.d.). [Photograph of man with smallpox]. Shutterstock.

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PRACTICE

Which of the following is true about the smallpox (variola) virus?

- a) It causes severe symptoms but is rarely fatal.
- b) It can be transmitted by vectors such as flies or mosquitos.
- c) It spreads via inhalation of respiratory droplets, which can travel very far in the air.
- d) Spread of smallpox requires close contact because respiratory droplets don't travel far before settling.

PRACTICE

All of the following diseases can be spread via the respiratory route except:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| a) Acne. | c) Rubella. |
| b) Measles. | d) Smallpox. |