

Contact with plague sources to be monitored by active surveillance

Sources of plague:

Contact with the following sources of plague within the previous 7 days warrant risk assessment for initiation of chemoprophylaxis and monitoring by active surveillance* for 7 days following the last exposure:

1. Exposure within 2 metres of a confirmed or probable case of plague
2. Aircraft/ship exposure within 2 metres of a probable or confirmed plague case in the last 7 days. A risk assessment to identify contacts (including passengers or crew) of the case should be carried out.
3. Contact with the following items without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - a. infected substances of human origin (SoHO[†])
 - b. laboratory exposure to plague infected materials
 - c. contaminated materials
4. Contact with a sick animal/flea bite in a plague affected area

Prophylaxis for close contacts:

Contact type	Preferred agents	Dose	Frequency	Route
Adults	Doxycycline	100mg	Twice daily	Oral
	Ciprofloxacin	500mg		
Children	Ciprofloxacin	15mg/kg (not to exceed 1g/ day)		
	OR			
	Ciprofloxacin by age:			
	newborn - 6 months	50mg		
	1 year <3 years	100mg		
3 years - <5 years	150mg			
5 years - <7 years	200mg			
7 years - <12 years	250mg			
12 years and over (adult dose)	500mg			
Pregnant women	OR			
	Doxycycline <i>(only if no alternative options)</i> >12 years of age and >45kg	100mg		
Pregnant women	Doxycycline [‡]	100mg		
	Ciprofloxacin [‡]	500mg		

* Contacts who are within 8-10 days of last exposure can be risk assessed for monitoring by passive surveillance for 7 days without chemoprophylaxis.

[†] Including but not limited to body fluids, body tissues, organs etc.

[‡] Doxycycline and ciprofloxacin are pregnancy categories D and C, respectively. PEP should be given only when the benefits outweigh the risks.