



Bubonic Plague

Media Coverage Report

As of 09/19/08

Total Hits: 94

Total Impressions: 522,625

Print Coverage

12 Hits

522,625 Impressions

- *The Hartford Courant*, "Connecticut Boy Scout Fully Recovered From Plague," 08/27/2008
- Associated Press, "Wyo. Health Officials Investigate Case of Plague," 08/26/2008
Article also ran in:
Print: *Casper Star Tribune* 08/26/2008
Online: JacksonHoleStarTribune.com 08/28/2008, BillingsGazette.net 08/26/2008
CasperStarTribune.net 08/26/2008, StarHerald.com 08/26/2008, NewsTimes.com 08/25/2008,
TheDay.com 08/25/2008, WHDH.com 08/25/2008, Boston.com 08/25/2008,
- *Jackson Hole Daily*, "Boy Scout Contracts Plague in Teton Area," 08/25/2008

Broadcast Coverage

33 Hits

- News 12 (New York), "News 12," 09/15/2008
- WCBS-AM (CBS 880, New York), "News," 09/14/2008
- WVIT-TV (NBC 30, Hartford/New Haven), "NBC 30 News," 09/14/2008
- News 12 (New York), "News 12 Connecticut," 09/13/2008
- WINS-AM (ABC/AP 1010, New York), "1010 PM News," 09/13/2008
- WPIX-TV (CW 11, New York), "CW 11 News at Ten," 09/13/2008
- WRCH-FM (CBS 100.5, Hartford/New Haven), "The Morning Show with Allan, Mike, and Allison," 08/26/2008
Story ran at 5:30a.m. and 6:30 a.m.
- WPIX-TV (CW 11, New York), "CW 11 News at Ten," 08/26/2008
- USA Radio Network, "Daybreak USA," 08/26/2008
- KYW-AM (CBS 1060, Philadelphia), "News Radio 1060," 08/26/2008
- WABC-TV (ABC 7, New York), "Eyewitness News," 08/26/2008
- WCBS-AM (CBS 880, New York), "News Morning Drive Time," 08/26/2008
- WCBS-TV (CBS 2, New York), "CBS 2 News at 5:00," 08/26/2008
- News 12 Connecticut (New York), "News 12," 08/26/2008
- WTIC-AM (CBS 1080, Hartford/New Haven), "Mornings with Ray and Diane," 08/26/2008
- WTIC-TV (FOX 61, Hartford/New Haven), "FOX 61 Morning Show," 08/26/2008
- WNBC-TV (NBC 4, New York), "Today in New York," 08/26/2008
Story ran at: 5a.m. and 6a.m.
- WINS-AM (ABC/AP 1010, New York), "News," 08/26/2008
- WINS-AM (ABC/AP 1010, New York), "1010 Morning News," 08/26/2008
- WNTP-AM (IND 990, Philadelphia), "WNTP News," 08/26/2008
- NECN-TV (Boston), "Good Morning Live," 08/26/2008
- KIRO-AM (IND 770, Seattle/Tacoma), "KIRO Morning News," 08/26/2008
- WCTX-TV (My Network TV 59, Hartford/New Haven), "Good Morning Connecticut," 08/26/2008
- WDRC-AM (IND 1360, Hartford/New Haven), "The Brad Davis Show," 08/26/2008
- WFSB-TV (CBS 3, Hartford/New Haven), "Eyewitness News at Noon," 08/26/2008

- WPKT-FM (NPR 90.5, Hartford/ New Haven), “WNPR News,” 08/26/2008
- WVIT-TV (NBC 30, Hartford/New Haven), “NBC 30 News,”
- WTNH-TV (ABC 8, Hartford/New Haven), “Good Morning Connecticut,” 08/26/2008
Story ran at 5:00a.m. and 6:00a.m.
- WWYZ-FM (92.5, Hartford/ New Haven), “Bosh and Cory in the Morning,” 08/26/2008
Story ran at 5:00 a.m. and 7:00a.m.

Online Coverage

49Hits

- Associated Press-Meriden, Conn., “Doctor: Bubonic Plague Victim Fully Recovered,” 09/13/2008
Article also ran in: FoxNews.com 09/16/2008, ImperfectParent.com 09/16/2008, WatchDogOnScience.com 09/14/2008, BostonHerald.com 09/14/2008, WTNH.com 09/13/2008, NewsTimes.com 09/13/2008, DailyPress.com 09/13/2008, StamfordAdvocate.com 09/13/2008, TheBostonChannel.com 09/13/2008, TheDay.com 09/13/2008, NewsDay.com 09/13/2008, Boston.com 09/13/2008, SunJournal.com 09/13/2008, 1010WINS.com 09/13/2008, Examiner.com 09/13/2008
- ShortNews.com, “Scout Diagnosed With Bubonic Plague 09/01/2008
- UPI.com, “Officials: Boy Scout Has Bubonic Plague,” 08/27/2008
Article also ran in: Nathanr.ca 08/27/2008, News.USTI.net 08/27/08, NewsTin.com 08/27/08, Pub7.bravenet.com 08/27/08
- ConnPost.com, “Boy Scout Treated For Bubonic Plague,” 08/27/2008
- Courant.com, “Connecticut Boy Scout Fully Recovered From Plague,” 08/27/2008
- DBTechno.com, “Connecticut Boy Scout Recovers from the Bubonic Plague,” 08/27/2008
- ChattahBox.com, “Connecticut Boy Scout Recovers Fully From Bubonic Plague,” 08/27/2008
- It.Moldova.Org, “Officials: By Scout Has Bubonic Plague,” 08/27/2008
- OhRanger.com, “Yellowstone Visitor Diagnosed with Bubonic Plague,” 08/27/08
- ABCLocal.Go.Com, “Boy Scout From CT Contracts the Plague,” 08/26/2008
- WFSB.com, “Boy Scout Contracts Bubonic Plague,” 08/26/2008
- LocalNews8.com, “CT Boy Scout May Have Contracted the Plague,” 08/26/2008,
- WCBSTV.com, “Conn. Boy Scout Contracts Bubonic Plague,” 08/26/2008
- Pinedale.Online.com, “Boy Scout Contracts Plague,” 08/26/2008
- WTNH.com, “Conn. Boy Gets Bubonic Plague,” 08/26/2008
Article also ran in: YourStreet.com 08/26/08
- Zimbio.com, “Boy Scout Diagnosed with Bubonic Plague,” 08/26/08
- Associated Press-Cheyenne, Wyo., “Boy Scout Gets Plague After Work in Wyo.,” 08/25/2008
Article also ran in: WCBS880.com 08/26/2008, Courant.com 08/26/2008, Current.com 08/26/08, MontanasNewsStation.com 08/25/2008, KJCT8.com 08/25/08
- NBC30.com, “Boy Scout Infected With Bubonic Plague,” 08/26/2008
Article also ran in: WellnessHow.Blogspot.com 08/26/2008, Examiner.com 08/26/2008
- FoxNews.com, “Connecticut Boy Diagnosed with Bubonic Plague After Visiting Wyoming,” 08/26/2008
- JacksonHoleNews.com, “Boy Scout Contracts Plague in Teton Area,” 08/25/2008
- KTAKRadio.com, “Yellowstone Visitor Diagnosed With Bubonic Plague,” 08/25/2008
- StarValleyIndependent.com, “Bubonic Plague Diagnosed in Yellowstone Visitor,” 08/25/2008

Hartford Courant.

Connecticut Boy Scout Fully Recovered From Plague *August 27, 2008*

[Link to article](#)

By: Christopher Keating

Eighteen Connecticut Boy Scouts and nine adults were among about 1,000 nationwide who traveled to [Wyoming](#) the last week of July to work on summer projects for the U.S. Forest Service.

They created trails and tore down fences in the northwest part of the state, including in Bridger-Teton National Forest.

It was there, between July 25 and Aug. 2, officials say, that an 18-year-old scout from [New Haven](#) County contracted bubonic plague.

The young man has fully recovered from the rare disease, which ravaged Europe during the Middle Ages.

It is the only case reported in Connecticut this year, and only about 15 cases are reported annually in the United States, officials said Tuesday.

The scout spent about a week in the hospital this month, said Louis Salute, scout executive of the [Milford](#)-based Connecticut Yankee Council. The scout and his parents are declining interviews, Salute said.

"It appears the boy was bitten by a flea," Salute said Tuesday. "He came back here and got ill. He was running a pretty high fever."

Besides suffering from malaise, the left side of the scout's neck was noticeably swollen, according to reports. The swollen gland is known as a "bubo," which is the root of the term "bubonic plague." His quick-acting parents got him to the hospital, and blood tests confirmed that he had the disease.

"When you hear of plague, you think of the 1400s," Salute said.

Since the potentially deadly illness was caught at Stage 1, it was not contagious, Salute said. No other scouts have become ill. With an incubation period that lasts for multiple days, the boy did not become ill until he had returned to Connecticut.

Wyoming officials say they may never pinpoint where the infection occurred because the scouts visited many sites in Yellowstone National Park and Teton County. This week, investigators will search for animal carcasses and fleas in the areas that the scouts visited.

"At this time, the exact location where the exposure to the disease occurred is not known, and it is likely we will never determine that level of detail," said Dr. Tracy Murphy, an epidemiologist with the Wyoming health department.

The Wyoming and Connecticut health departments are investigating the incident, along with the federal [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) in Atlanta. Neither state health department would release the boy's name. The case represented only the sixth in Wyoming since 1978 and the first since 2004, said Kim Deti, a spokeswoman for the Wyoming health department.

"Most of the cases occur in the southwestern part of the country," said William Gerrish, a spokesman for the Connecticut Department of Public Health. "An important message is [that] travelers should be aware of local diseases."

Boy Scout Contracts Plague in Teton Area

August 26, 2008

[Link to article](#)

By: Traci Angel

A Connecticut teenager who was among other Boy Scouts doing service projects in the Teton area this summer contracted the bubonic plague, health officials say.

The Wyoming Health Department released information Monday that said the teenager spent time in Yellowstone National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and other sites within Teton County between July 26 and Aug. 3.

He became ill the second week of August and spent the next week in a hospital, where he was diagnosed with the disease, said Randall Nelson, state veterinarian for the Connecticut Department of Public Health. His symptoms were fever, malaise and a large swelling on the left side of his neck in the lymph node and parotid gland, he said. He was treated with antibiotics and has recovered fully, he said.

The male teenager's name will not be released because of Connecticut law, Nelson said. He had traveled with other people and no one else became sick, Nelson said.

The two state health departments are working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to track the source of the disease.

"We're still working with the Wyoming State Health Department and the CDC to retrace the steps of the teenager," Nelson said.

Bubonic plague can occur after a person is bitten by a rodent flea that is carrying the plague bacterium or by handling an infected animal, according to the CDC.

State health officials said this is the sixth human case of plague thought to be acquired in Wyoming since 1978. The most recent case was reported in Goshen County in 2004.

Human risk to contract the plague is low in Wyoming, said Dr. Karl Musgrave, state public health veterinarian. The state has recorded the disease in animals in 22 of Wyoming's 23 counties since records have been kept, including mountain lions in the Jackson Hole area.

State health officials said they are looking for fleas and animal carcasses in areas where the teenager may have been.

"At this time, the exact location where the exposure to the disease occurred is not known and it is likely we will never determine that level of detail," said Dr. Tracy Murphy, state epidemiologist with the Wyoming Department of Health.

As part of the testing, CDC teams flag rodent holes. The fleas that are captured are then tested for the plague, said Mary Cernicek, spokeswoman for Bridger-Teton National Forest. She said the teenager was with a group that camped on an elk feedground and had stayed in Grant Village at one point.

Boy Scouts of America national spokesman Deron Smith said the organization is working with the CDC and was unaware of any other illnesses.

About 1,100 Scouts and adults helped with service projects this summer. They built several miles of trails along Teton Pass and removed several miles of fence in the Gros Ventre region, among other projects.



Wyo. Health Officials Investigate Case of Plague

August 26, 2008

Article Also Ran in:

Casper Star Tribune 08/26/2008 , *JacksonHoleStarTribune.com* 08/28/2008, *BillingsGazette.net* 08/26/2008, *StarHerald.com* 08/26/2008, *NewsTimes.com* 08/25/2008, *TheDay.com* 08/25/2008, *WHDH.com* 08/25/2008, *Boston.com* 08/25/2008,

[Link to article](#)

By The Associated Press

CHEYENNE (AP) - The Wyoming Department of Health said Monday that it was investigating how a Boy Scout who visited northwest Wyoming became infected with bubonic plague.

The 18-year-old from Connecticut was hospitalized but now is recovering at home, according to Deron Smith, spokesman for the Boy Scouts of America. Smith said there were no other reports of plague-like symptoms among the hundreds of other members of the Boy Scouts' honor society, the Order of the Arrow, who built trails and did other volunteer work in the Jackson area a month ago.

"Obviously the safety and protection of our participants is our number one priority," Smith said.

"We always keep that in mind."

It's unknown where the young man may have contracted the disease. Health officials in Connecticut told their Wyoming counterparts about the case late last week.

Wyoming Department of Health spokeswoman Kim Deti said Wyoming is the focus of the investigation because Connecticut has had no bubonic plague cases - in either people or animals - in recent history.

If the teenager did get the disease in Wyoming, it would be the first bubonic plague case in a human in the state since 2004. Wyoming has had only five confirmed plague cases since 1978.



News 12
September 15, 2008

[CC] 00:25:43 A news 12 Connecticut update now on the Boy Scout who came down with the bubonic plague. Doctors say he's fully recovered. As we've reported the 18-year old scout was diagnosed with the plague after returning to Connecticut from a trip to Wyoming. Doctors say state health officials were skeptical the teen even had the plague until it had been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 00:28:43



News
September 14, 2008

00:28:08 Bubonic Plague: An eighteen year old Boy Scout has fully recovered from bubonic plague. 00:31:08



NBC 30 News
September 14, 2008

[CC] 00:06:27 A Connecticut Boy Scout who contracted the bubonic plague while visiting Wyoming has fully recovered. Doctors say the 18-year-old, whose name and hometown have not been released, recovered after taking antibiotics. The teen was among hundreds of scouts who built trails in northwest Wyoming back in July. He was diagnosed with the plague shortly after he arrived at a hospital in Meriden with swollen glands and a high fever. 00:09:27



News 12 Connecticut
September 13, 2008

[CC] 00:13:32 In 12 on health, doctors say a Connecticut Boy Scout who caught bubonic plague has fully recovered. As we've reported, the 18 year old scout was diagnosed after returning from a trip to Wyoming. Doctors say state health officials were skeptical the teen even had the plague until it was confirmed by the centers for disease control. 00:16:32



1010 PM News
September 13, 2008

00:50:25 Bubonic Plague: An eighteen year old Boy Scout has fully recovered from bubonic plague. 00:53:25



CW News at Ten
September 13, 2008

[CC] 00:36:02 Coming up right here a Boy Scout from our area fights off the bubonic plague, you heard that right. That story in just a few minutes. 00:39:02



The Morning Show with Allan, Mike, and Allison

5:30 a.m.- 6 a.m.

August 26, 2008

00:07:48 Bubonic Plague: Radio host discusses a case of bubonic plague. SB; Radio host says a Boy Scout from Connecticut who visited Wyoming is back home recovering from the bubonic plague. 00:10:48



The Morning Show with Allan, Mike, and Allison

6 a.m.- 7 a.m.

August 26, 2008

00:01:52 Boy Scout Sick: An 18 year old Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plaque. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. The boy is now recovering at home after being hospitalized. 00:04:52

00:30:33 Boy Scout Sick: An 18 year old Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plaque. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. The boy is now recovering at home after being hospitalized. 00:33:33



CW 11 News at Ten
August 26, 2008

00:17:48 TZ; Scout Gets the Plague: R; Boy Scout
visiting Yellowstone National Park gets the Bubonic
Plague. 00:18:24



Daybreak USA
August 26, 2008

00:56:40 Bubonic Plague: An 18 year old Boy Scout from Connecticut
has tested positive for bubonic plague. The scout was part of a Boy Scout
service project in Wyoming. 00:59:40



News Radio 1060
August 26, 2008

00:19:33 Bubonic Plague: An 18 year old Boy Scout from Connecticut has tested positive for bubonic plague. The scout was part of a Boy Scout service project in Wyoming.
00:22:33



Eyewitness News
August 26, 2008

00:43:56 TZ; Plague: R; A Milford, CT **Boy Scout** recently survived a bout of bubonic plague he contracted at The Order Of The Arrow Camp in WY earlier this month.
GR; Location. 00:44:28



News Morning Drive Time

August 26, 2008

00:19:17 Boy Scout Sick: An 18 year old Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plaque. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. The boy is now recovering at home after being hospitalized. 00:22:17



CBS 2 News at 5:00

August 26, 2008

00:33:01 TZ; Plague: A Milford, CT Boy Scout recently survived a bout of bubonic plague he contracted in WY earlier this month. V; Boy Scouts cleaning Bridger Teton National Forest Teton Pass Trails, courtesy of YouTube.Com, CT Boy Scouts building. GR; Plague case. V; Rat flea image courtesy of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Yale University Biomedical Research and Education campus. I; Dr. Vince Quagliarello, Yale New Haven Hospital, says the teen may have been bitten by an infected rat flea. V; Unidentified hospital, American Medical Response ambulance. V; Bubonic plague victims John Tull and Lucinda Marker. Tony Aiello reporting. 00:34:59



News 12
August 26, 2008

[CC] 00:06:58 A deadly disease found in a Connecticut Boy Scout. How they believe he contracted the Bubonic Plague. 00:09:58

[CC] 00:10:42 The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating how a Connecticut teen contracted the bubonic plague while visiting the state with the Boy Scouts last month. They say the 18-year-old was taking part in service work in the northwest part of the state. A Boy Scout spokesman says the boy was hospitalized and is now recovering at home. Symptoms of bubonic plague include fever, headache and exhaustion. 00:13:42



Mornings with Ray and Diane

August 26, 2008

00:00:53 Boy Scout With Bubonic Plague: A Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plague. He is recovering at home. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. 00:03:53

00:31:56 Boy Scout With Bubonic Plague: A Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plague. The boy is recovering. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. 00:34:56



FOX 61 Morning Show
August 26, 2008

00:34:52 Boy Scout: R; A CT Boy Scout is back home after getting the Bubonic Plague in Wyoming, near Jackson. 00:35:21



WNTP News
August 26, 2008

00:02:20 Boy Scout Sick: An 18 year old Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plaque. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. The boy is now recovering at home after being hospitalized for a week. 00:05:20



News

August 26, 2008

00:40:46 Bubonic Plague: Radio host discusses a case of bubonic plague. SB; Radio host says a Boy Scout from Connecticut who visited Wyoming is back home recovering from the bubonic plague.
00:43:46



1010 Morning News

August 26, 2008

00:54:50 Boy Scout Sick: A Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plague. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. The boy is now recovering at home after being hospitalized.
00:57:50



Today in New York
5 a.m. – 6 a.m.
August 26, 2008

[CC] 00:04:49 An investigation is underway as to how a Boy Scout got infected with bubonic plague. It's not known where he contracted the disease. The teen was hospitalized but is now recovering at home. Bubonic plague causes fever, headache and exhaustion.
00:07:49



Today in New York
6 a.m. – 7 a.m.
August 26, 2008

00:18:39 TZ; Disease: R; Doctors want to know how a Boy Scout from Connecticut got infected with the Bubonic Plaque. 00:19:01



Good Morning Live

August 26, 2008

00:19:34 The Plague: The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating whether an 18 year old Connecticut Boy Scout may have been infected with Bubonic Plague while visiting the state. Only 10 to 15 human cases are reported in the US each year. Bubonic plague is spread by rodents, rabbits and fleas. It causes fever, headache and exhaustion, and can usually be treated with antibiotics. 00:20:03



KIRO Morning News

August 26, 2008

00:23:42 Bubonic Plague: An 18 year old Boy Scout from Connecticut has tested positive for bubonic plague. The scout was part of a Boy Scout service project in Wyoming. 00:26:42



Good Morning Connecticut

August 26, 2008

[CC] 00:06:07 Boy Scout With Bubonic Plague: A Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plague. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. 00:09:07

[CC] 00:35:32 Boy Scout With Bubonic Plague: A Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plague. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. 00:38:32



The Brad Davis Show
August 26, 2008

00:03:23 Boy Scout Sick: A Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plaque. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. The boy is now recovering at home after being hospitalized. 00:06:23



Eyewitness News at Noon
August 26, 2008

[CC] 00:08:54 Boy Scout With Bubonic Plague: A Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plaque. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. 00:11:54



WNPR News
August 26, 2008

00:02:06 Boy Scout Sick: An 18 year old Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plaque. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. The boy is now recovering at home after being hospitalized. 00:05:06



NBC 30 News
August 26, 2008

00:02:55 TZ; Bubonic plague: An 18 year-old Boy Scout from CT has contracted the bubonic plague, possibly while visiting WY. GR; map of Yellowstone National Park. The WY Department of Health is investigating the incident. GR; bubonic plague facts. 00:03:50



Good Morning Connecticut
5 a.m.-6 a.m.
August 26, 2008

[CC] 00:04:40 New this morning, a Connecticut Boy Scout takes a trip to Wyoming, and comes back with bubonic plague. The 18 year old was one of hundreds of scouts who built trails and did other service work in Wyoming late last month. He is recovering at home in Connecticut. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. 00:07:40



Good Morning Connecticut
6 a.m.-7 a.m.
August 26, 2008

[CC] 00:05:03 Boy Scout With Bubonic Plague: A Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plague. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. 00:08:03



Bosh and Cory in the Morning
5 a.m.- 6 a.m.
August 26, 2008

00:32:17 Bubonic Plague: Radio host discusses a case of bubonic plague. SB; Radio host says a Boy Scout from Connecticut who visited Wyoming is back home recovering from the bubonic plague. 00:35:17



Bosh and Cory in the Morning
7 a.m.- 8 a.m.
August 26, 2008

00:03:39 Boy Scout With Bubonic Plague: A Connecticut Boy Scout went on a camping trip in Wyoming and came back with Bubonic Plague. The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating. 00:06:39



Doctor: Bubonic Plague Victim Fully Recovered

September 13, 2008

Article Also Ran in:

FoxNews.com 09/16/2008, ImperfectParent.com 09/16/2008, WatchDogOnScience.com 09/14/2008, BostonHerald.com 09/14/2008, WTNH.com 09/13/2008, NewsTimes.com 09/13/2008, DailyPress.com 09/13/2008, StamfordAdvocate.com 09/13/2008, TheBostonChannel.com 09/13/2008, TheDay.com 09/13/2008, NewsDay.com 09/13/2008, Boston.com 09/13/2008, SunJournal.com 09/13/2008, 1010WINS.com 09/13/2008, Examiner.com 09/13/2008

[Link to article](#)

By The Associated Press

MERIDEN, Conn. -- Physicians say a Connecticut Boy Scout who is believed to have caught bubonic plague while visiting Wyoming has fully recovered from the rare, potentially deadly illness.

The 18-year-old, whose name and hometown has not been released, recovered after a course of the antibiotic medicine Cipro, according to a doctor who treated him at MidState Medical Center in Meriden.

The young man was among hundreds of Scouts who built trails and did other service work in northwest Wyoming in late July and early August before returning home to Connecticut.

He arrived at MidState Medical Center's emergency room with a swollen gland and high fever, and was placed on antibiotics for a suspected case of the mumps until tests later determined he had bubonic plague.

"We did get the history of him being in Wyoming," said Dr. Robert Levitz, an infectious diseases specialist. "I didn't think it was plague, but the classic symptoms were there."

Bubonic plague causes fever, headache and exhaustion and is spread by rodents, rabbits and fleas.

Being on antibiotics for several days helped prevent the teen from developing pneumonic plague, which can spread through coughing and led to millions of deaths in the Middle Ages, Levitz said.

Doctors at Clinical Laboratory Partners in Newington pinpointed the disease-producing pathogen in the teen's blood as *Yersinia pestis*, or bubonic plague.

"I didn't believe it," said Dr. Jaber Aslanzadeh, director of microbiology at the lab. "I said, 'Oh my God, this can't be.' I have been in business for 20 years, and this is the first time I had seen it."

The laboratory does bioterrorism testing for the state Department of Health and, following protocol, they notified the department of the rare find.

"They didn't believe us, actually," Aslanzadeh said. "This is too unusual."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta confirmed the finding.



Scout Diagnosed with Bubonic Plague *September 1, 2008*

[Link to article](#)

An investigation is underway in Wyoming after an 18-year-old Scout was diagnosed with bubonic plague after being bitten by fleas on a trip to Bridger-Teton National Forest.

The teen was taken to hospital after he developed a high fever, a swollen neck, and malaise. Tests indicated that he was suffering from bubonic plague, the disease that was dubbed 'the Black Death' when it ravaged Europe 600 years ago.

In this instance the disease was caught early and it is not believed that it is either life-threatening or contagious.



Officials: Boy Scout Has Bubonic Plague *August 27, 2008*

Article Also Ran in:

Nathanr.ca 08/27/2008, News.USTI.net 08/27/08, NewsTin.com 08/27/08, Pub7.bravenet.com 08/27/08

[Link to article](#)

MILFORD, Conn., Aug. 27 (UPI) -- An 18-year-old Boy Scout from Connecticut was diagnosed with the bubonic plague after his scout troop visited Wyoming, officials say.

Connecticut Yankee Council Scout executive Louis Salute said the unidentified scout had been bitten by a flea during a troupe outing last week to rural areas in Wyoming including Bridger-Teton National Forest, The Hartford (Conn.) Courant said Wednesday.

"It appears the boy was bitten by a flea," Salute said.

"He came back here and got ill. He was running a pretty high fever."

After being taken to a hospital because of swelling of his neck and malaise, blood tests revealed the teenager was suffering from the bacterial disease.

Salute told the Courant said the disease, which most people commonly associate with the Black Death that decimated Europe six centuries ago, was caught in its first stage in the teen and wasn't considered contagious or potentially fatal.

The newspaper said Wyoming officials are investigating the rural areas for signs of the potentially deadly infection.

Boy Scout Treated For Bubonic Plague *August 27, 2008*

[Link to article](#)

By: Robert Miller

Bubonic plague — a disease consigned in the public's eye to the Middle Ages — still lurks in the wilderness. A state Boy Scout is evidence of that.

The 18-year-old Scout — who the state Department of Public Health said lives in New Haven County — in all likelihood contracted the plague on a camping trip to Wyoming in July. Returning to Connecticut this month with fever, chills and a swollen gland in his neck, doctors diagnosed the disease, and treated the teenager successfully with antibiotics, said health department spokesman William Gerrish.

Bubonic plague is not spread person to person, Gerrish said, and the case is not a threat to anyone else.

The young man was among hundreds of Scouts who built trails and did other service work near Jackson, Wyo., late last month. If the Wyoming Department of Health concludes the Scout did contract the disease there, it will be the first case of plague in the state since 2004.

Gerrish said this was the first time state doctors have treated the disease in decades. "We checked our records back to the 1980s and didn't find a case," he said. "It may go back even further."

Bubonic plague gets spread by fleas, which carry the disease from rodents to humans. Dr. Gary Schleiter, chief of the infectious disease department at Danbury Hospital, said modern hygiene has kept the disease from spreading the way it did in the Middle Ages.

"We don't have the rats and fleas they had back then," he said. "It's very rare."

The last serious outbreak of bubonic plague in the United States was in Los Angeles between 1924 and 1925.

The plague's bacteria is not found in any animals east of the Mississippi River. But many small rodents in the American West and Southwest, including rock squirrels, ground squirrels, chipmunks and prairie dogs, still carry the bacteria that causes the disease, with fleas spreading it from these animals to humans.

A person usually becomes ill with bubonic plague two to six days after being infected, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If treated with antibiotics, most people recover completely. Without antibiotics, the infection can cause severe illness and is fatal in 50 to 90 percent of untreated cases.

There are about 10 to 15 cases of bubonic plague in the United States each year, according to the CDC, with most cases occurring in two pockets — in northern New Mexico, northern Arizona, and southern Colorado; and in California, southern Oregon and western Nevada. Internationally, there are 1,000 to 3,000 cases in Africa, South America and Asia. It no longer exists in Europe.

Gerrish said the case is a good reminder to travelers to be aware of the diseases that might exist in their destinations, take preventive steps before going, and see a doctor if they are ill upon return.

Schleiter said he routinely treats people who come back from travel with intestinal illnesses. He's also had to diagnose cases of mosquito-borne diseases.

"I've seen malaria and dengue fever," he said.

But Schleiter said bubonic plague is so rare, it's hard to advise people to avoid it.

"If this was caused by a flea bite, what are you supposed to do?" he said. "Don't go anywhere? You can't tell people 'Don't go outside.' "

Connecticut Boy Scout Fully Recovered from Plague *August 27, 2008*

[Link to article](#)

Hartford (dbTechno) - An 18-year old Boy Scout from Connecticut has recovered from the bubonic plague.

The 18-year old Boy Scout, along with a group of adults, took part in a push to create trails in the woods of Wyoming in the last week of July.

Between July 25 and August 2nd, it is believed that the boy managed to contract bubonic plague. The bubonic plague is best known for how it devastated Europe during the Middle Ages, and apparently it still exists.

This is the only case that was reported in Connecticut this year, as less than 20 are reported annually in the U.S.

The 18-year old Boy Scout has since fully recovered from the very rare disease after spending time in the hospital.

Health departments in both Wyoming and Connecticut are looking into the incident, along with the CDC.



Connecticut Boy Scout Recovers Fully From Bubonic Plague *August 27, 2008*

[Link to article](#)



Hartford (ChattahBox) - An 18-year old Boy Scout from Connecticut who contracted the bubonic plague has fully recovered after receiving treatment.

The 18-year old Boy Scout, along with adults joined a team of 1,000 people to help create trails in the woods of Wyoming.

This effort took place in the last week of July, as it is believed he contracted the bubonic plague between July 25th and August 2nd.

Most know of the bubonic plague for what it did to Europe in the Middle Ages/

There are less than 20 cases of bubonic plague reported annually in the U.S.

The boy had to receive treatment in the hospital, but has fully recovered.



Officials: Boy Scout Has Bubonic Plague

August 27, 2008

[Link to article](#)

An 18-year-old Boy Scout from Connecticut was diagnosed with the bubonic plague after his scout troop visited Wyoming, officials say.

Connecticut Yankee Council Scout executive Louis Salute said the unidentified scout had been bitten by a flea during a troupe outing last week to rural areas in Wyoming including Bridger-Teton National Forest, The Hartford (Conn.) Courant said Wednesday.

It appears the boy was bitten by a flea, Salute said. He came back here and got ill. He was running a pretty high fever.

After being taken to a hospital because of swelling of his neck and malaise, blood tests revealed the teenager was suffering from the bacterial disease.

Salute told the Courant said the disease, which most people commonly associate with the Black Death that decimated Europe six centuries ago, was caught in its first stage in the teen and wasn't considered contagious or potentially fatal.

The newspaper said Wyoming officials are investigating the rural areas for signs of the potentially deadly infection.



Yellowstone Visitor Diagnosed with Bubonic Plague *August 27, 2008*

[Link to article](#)

An out-of-state resident has been diagnosed with bubonic plague after recently visiting Teton County and Yellowstone National Park, the Wyoming Department of Health said Monday.

State epidemiologist Tracy Murphy says the victim traveled to several sites within the park with a Boy Scout troop between July 26 and August 3.



Boy Scout from CT Contracts the Plague *August 26, 2008*

[Link to article](#)

WYOMING (WABC) -- The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating how a Boy Scout who visited northwest Wyoming became infected with bubonic plague.

A Boy Scout spokesman says the 18-year-old from Connecticut was hospitalized but now is recovering at home.

It's unknown where the young man may have contracted the disease. Health officials in Connecticut told their Wyoming counterparts about the case late last week.

If he did get the disease in Wyoming, it would be the first plague case in a human in Wyoming since 2004. Wyoming has had only five confirmed plague cases since 1978.

The young man was among hundreds of Scouts who built trails and did other service work near Jackson late last month. Bubonic plague causes fever, headache and exhaustion and is spread by rodents, rabbits and fleas.



Boy Scout Contracts Bubonic Plague

Health Officials Say Teen Contracted Plague From Flea Bite

August 26, 2008

[Link to article](#)

PLYMOUTH, Conn. -- A Plymouth Boy Scout is recovering after contracting the bubonic plague during a trip to northwest Wyoming.

A Boy Scout spokesman said the 18-year-old was hospitalized but now is recovering at home. Connecticut health officials said the teen contracted the plague after he was bitten by a flea. After he returned from Wyoming, a blood sample was taken by members of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Officials said the sample confirmed that the teen had contracted the plague. Connecticut health officials told their Wyoming counterparts about the case late last week.

If he did get the disease in Wyoming, it would be the first plague case in a human in Wyoming since 2004. Wyoming has had only five confirmed plague cases since 1978. Health officials told Eyewitness News that there are one to five cases in the U.S. each year. The teen was among hundreds of Scouts who built trails and did other service work near Jackson late last month. Bubonic plague causes fever, headache and exhaustion and is spread by rodents, rabbits and fleas. It is not transmitted from person to person. Connecticut Department of Health officials said the case poses no public health concern.

CT Boy Scout May Have Contracted the Plague *August 26, 2008*

[Link to article](#)



Boy Scouts Trail Blazing in Late July of 2008

A boy scout is in a Connecticut hospital Tuesday with the bubonic plague.

Health officials are trying to determine if he got the disease while he was in Wyoming this summer.

A Boy Scout Spokesman says the 18-year-old was among the hundreds of scouts building trails in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, near the Jackson area.

It's still unknown where the young man may have contracted the disease.

If he did get it in Wyoming, it would be the first case of the plague since 2004 in the state. Wyoming has had only five cases since 1978.

Bubonic plague causes fever, headache and exhaustion. It is spread by rodents, rabbits and fleas.

About 1,100 scouts and adult leaders were helping with the summer projects this year.



Conn. Boy Scout Contracts Bubonic Plague Teen Likely Bitten By 'Rat Flea' While On Mission in Wyoming

August 26, 2008

[Link to article](#)

By: Tony Aiello

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CBS) — It strikes fewer than 20 Americans each year, and now a local teenager has survived a bout with Bubonic plague. The young man is a Connecticut Boy Scout who apparently was infected earlier this month in Wyoming.

The teen was on an eight-day mission of hard work for a good cause, one of 1,000 Boy Scouts who helped clear brush, remove fences, and improve trails at a National Park.

When he returned home to Connecticut with more than sore muscles, however, he found out he was infected with the potentially deadly Bubonic plague.

"He'd like to put it behind him at this point. It was a scary episode for the family," said Lou Salute of the Conn. Yankee Scout Council.

Salute says the 18-year-old traveled with 17 other local scouts to Wyoming's Bridger Teton National Forest for the public service project. At their campground, the teen was probably bitten by a "rat flea" when he became infected.

According to Dr. Vince Quagliarello, an infectious disease expert at Yale University, the Bubonic plague comes from "usually a flea that bites an infected

animal – a rodent, a prairie dog, a squirrel – and then bites a human."

The Scout returned home to the Milford-New Haven area on Aug. 3, and within three days he was hospitalized with a persistent high fever of 104 degrees.

A blood test confirmed he had the plague.

The Scout was treated with antibiotics and has made a full recovery.

Salute says most importantly, the plague was caught early.

"The Scout was not contagious, [it was] caught in stage one. There was no chance of someone else catching the disease from him," he said.

Salute says the young man is a supremely dedicated Scout who won't let the plague diminish his pride in a job well done.

The last plague victims in the area were a couple from New Mexico who got sick while visiting the city in 2002. Lucinda Marker recovered quickly, but John Tull spent 224 days in the hospital and had his legs amputated.



Boy Scout Contracts Plague

August 26, 2008

[Link to article](#)

The Wyoming Department of Health reports state health officials are investigating a case of bubonic plague in an out-of-state resident who recently visited Teton County and Yellowstone National Park.

The young adult traveled to multiple sites in the area with a group of Boy Scouts from July 26 to August 3, said Dr. Tracy Murphy, state epidemiologist with the Wyoming Department of Health.

"The individual traveled to Yellowstone National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and other sites within Teton County. He was involved in a combination of activities during his visit that included working on a service project, camping, sightseeing and participating in sports."

Wyoming Department of Health staff will participate in an environmental investigation with other agencies this week to look for fleas and animal carcasses in areas where the individual visited.

"At this time the exact location where the exposure to the disease occurred is not known and it is likely we will never determine that level of detail," Murphy said.

Dr. Karl Musgrave, state public health veterinarian with the Wyoming Department of Health, said that while the risk for humans to contract plague is relatively low in Wyoming, the disease has been documented in animals in 22 of Wyoming's 23 counties since records were kept.

This is the sixth human case of plague thought to be acquired in Wyoming since 1978. The most recent human case of plague in Wyoming was acquired in Goshen County in the fall of 2004. Other recorded cases involving residents include a 1978 Washakie County case, a 1982 Laramie County case, a 1992 Sheridan County case that resulted in death and a 2000 Washakie County case.

"It's safe to assume that the risk for plague exists all

around Wyoming," Musgrave said. "And while the disease is rare in humans, it is important that people take precautions to keep exposure to the disease to a minimum."

Ways to avoid the plague include:

- Avoiding unnecessary contact with rodents and their nests and burrows.
- Avoiding unnecessary contact with sick or dead animals, especially rodents and rabbits, and wearing protective gloves when handling sick or dead animals.
- Having ill pets, such as cats and dogs, examined by a veterinarian.
- Avoiding areas where a large number of unexplained rodent deaths have been observed.
- Keeping pets away from rodent nests and burrows by keeping them leashed.
- Treating pets with flea preventatives (see your local veterinarian for more information).

Murphy said that the typical sign of the most common form of human plague is a swollen and very tender lymph gland, accompanied by pain. The swollen gland is called a "bubo" (hence the term "bubonic plague"). Bubonic plague should be suspected when a person develops a swollen gland, fever, chills, headache, and extreme exhaustion and has a history of possible exposure to infected rodents, rabbits, or fleas. Murphy advised anyone experiencing these symptoms to see their healthcare provider.

Frequently Asked Questions about Plague (based on information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):

Q. How is plague transmitted?

A. Plague, caused by a bacterium called *Yersinia pestis*, is transmitted from rodent to rodent by infected fleas.

Q. How do people get plague?

A. Plague is characterized by periodic disease

outbreaks in rodent populations, some of which have a high death rate. During these outbreaks, hungry infected fleas that have lost their normal hosts seek other sources of blood, thus increasing the increased risk to humans and other animals frequenting the area. Rock squirrels and their fleas are the most frequent sources of human infection in the southwestern states. Other rodent species, such as prairie dogs, wood rats, chipmunks, and other ground squirrels and their fleas suffer plague outbreaks and some of these occasionally serve as sources of human infection. Deer mice and voles are thought to maintain the disease in animal populations but are less important as sources of human infection. Other less frequent sources of infection include wild rabbits, and wild carnivores that pick up their infections from wild rodent outbreaks. Domestic cats (and sometimes dogs) are readily infected by fleas or from eating infected wild rodents. Cats may serve as a source of infection to persons exposed to them. Pets may also bring plague-infected fleas into the home.

Q. What is the basic transmission cycle?

A. Fleas become infected by feeding on rodents, such as the chipmunks, prairie dogs, ground squirrels, mice, and other mammals that are infected with the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*. Fleas transmit the plague bacteria to humans and other mammals during the feeding process. The plague bacteria are maintained in the blood systems of rodents.

Q. Could you get plague from another person?

A. Yes, when the other person has plague pneumonia and coughs droplets containing the plague bacteria into air that is breathed by a non-infected person.

Q. What are the signs and symptoms of plague?

A. The typical sign of the most common form of

human plague is a swollen and very tender lymph gland, accompanied by pain. The swollen gland is called a "bubo" (hence the term "bubonic plague"). Bubonic plague should be suspected when a person develops a swollen gland, fever, chills, headache, and extreme exhaustion, and has a history of possible exposure to infected rodents, rabbits, or fleas.

Q. What is the incubation period for plague?

A. A person usually becomes ill with bubonic plague two to six days after being infected. When bubonic plague is left untreated, plague bacteria invade the bloodstream. When plague bacteria multiply in the bloodstream, they spread rapidly throughout the body and cause a severe and often fatal condition. Infection of the lungs with the plague bacterium causes the pneumonic form of plague, a severe respiratory illness. The infected person may experience high fever, chills, cough, and breathing difficulty, and expel bloody sputum. If plague patients are not given specific antibiotic therapy, the disease can progress rapidly to death.

Q. What is the mortality rate of plague?

A. About 14 percent (1 in 7) of all plague cases in the United States are fatal.

Q. How many cases of plague occur in the U.S.?

A. Human plague in the United States has occurred as mostly scattered cases in rural areas (an average of 10 to 20 persons each year). Globally, the World Health Organization reports 1,000 to 3,000 cases of plague every year.

Q. Is the disease seasonal in its occurrence?

A. No, plague can be acquired at anytime during the year.



Conn. Boy Gets Bubonic Plague *August 26, 2008*

Article Also Ran in:

YourStreet.com 08/26/08

[Link to article](#)

(WTNH) -- A Connecticut Boy Scout who went on a trip to Wyoming and came home with bubonic plague has recovered.

The 18 year old, who is from New Haven county, was one of hundreds of Scouts who built trails and did other service work in Wyoming late last month and early this month.

"The young adult traveled to Yellowstone National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and other sites within Teton County," Dr. Tracy Murphy, state epidemiologist with the Wyoming Department of Health, said in a news release. "

A spokesman for the Connecticut Department of Public Health said they believe the teen came in

contact with fleas that were infected with bubonic plague.

"At this time the exact location where the exposure to the disease occurred is not known and it is likely we will never determine that level of detail," Murphy said.

The unidentified man has now recovered and is at home.

There are ten to fifteen cases of bubonic plague a year in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Most cases occur in the Southwestern U.S.



Boy Scout Diagnosed with Bubonic Plague *August 26, 2008*

[Link to article](#)



Image Source CosmosMagazine.com

An 18-year-old boy scout from Connecticut is recovering from the bubonic plague, after contracting it on a trip through Wyoming.

After spending time in Wyoming between July 26 and August 3, the boy scout fell ill around the second week of August. He experienced a range of

symptoms including fever, malaise and large swelling in the lymph nodes on the left side of his neck.

He spent a week in the hospital, where he was diagnosed with the plague.

Although health officials have yet to confirm the boy contracted the plague while in Wyoming, he did spend considerable time in Yellowstone National Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest. The last known case of the plague in Wyoming was in 2004. The state has had only five confirmed plague cases since 1978.

The bubonic plague is easily spread by rodents, rabbits and fleas. Once contracted a person will often experience swelling of the lymph glands, fever, headache and exhaustion. The infection is easily treated with antibiotics if caught early enough.



Boy Scout Gets Plague After Work in Wyo. *August 25, 2008*

Article Also Ran in:

WCBS880.com 08/26/2008, Courant.com 08/26/2008, Current.com 08/26/08, MontanasNewsStation.com 08/25/2008, KJCT8.com 08/25/08

[Link to article](#)

By The Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating how a Boy Scout who visited northwest Wyoming became infected with bubonic plague.

The 18-year-old was hospitalized but is recovering.

Health officials haven't been able to confirm the young man contracted bubonic plague in Wyoming. If he did, it would be the first plague case in a human

in Wyoming since 2004. Wyoming has had only five confirmed plague cases since 1978.

The young man's identity and hometown haven't been released. He was among hundreds of Scouts who built trails and did other service work near Jackson late last month.

Bubonic plague causes swelling of the lymph glands along with fever, headache and exhaustion. The disease is spread by rodents, rabbits and fleas.



Boy Scout Infected with Bubonic Plague *August 26, 2008*

Article Also Ran in:

WellnessHow.Blogspot.com 08/26/2008, Examiner.com 08/26/2008

[Link to article](#)

An 18-year-old Boy Scout from Connecticut is recovering at home after becoming infected with bubonic plague, possibly in Wyoming.

The teen was among hundreds of scouts who built trails and did other service work late last month. The Wyoming Department of Health is trying to determine how he became infected.

No information on the teen has been released.

The teen traveled to multiple sites in the area, including Yellowstone National Park. Where the teen contracted the disease is not known.

According to the Centers For Disease Control, bubonic plague is not spread from person to person. Infection usually comes after being bitten by a rodent flea that is carrying the plague bacterium or handling an infected animal.

Bubonic plague is a potentially fatal bacterial infection. It causes swollen, tender lymph nodes, high fever and chills.

Ten to 20 cases occur in the United States each year, according to the CDD. About 1 in 7 cases in the U.S. are fatal



Connecticut Boy Diagnosed with Bubonic Plague After Visiting Wyoming

August 26, 2008

[Link to article](#)

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating how a Boy Scout who visited northwest Wyoming became infected with bubonic plague.

The 18-year-old was hospitalized but is recovering. The young man is from Connecticut. His identity and hometown haven't been released.

The teen spent time in Yellowstone National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and other sites within Teton County between July 26 and Aug. 3, the Jackson Hole Daily reported.

He became ill the second week of August and spent a week in a hospital, where he was diagnosed with the plague, Randall Nelson, state veterinarian for the Connecticut Department of Public Health, told the newspaper.

The teen's symptoms included fever, malaise and a large swelling on the left side of his neck in the lymph node and parotid gland, he said. He was treated with antibiotics and has recovered.

Health officials haven't been able to confirm the young man contracted bubonic plague in Wyoming. If he did, it would be the first plague case in a human in Wyoming since 2004. Wyoming has had only five confirmed plague cases since 1978.

He was among hundreds of Scouts who built trails and did other service work near Jackson late last month.

Bubonic plague causes swelling of the lymph glands along with fever, headache and exhaustion. The disease is spread by rodents, rabbits and fleas.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Boy Scout Contracts Plague in Teton Area

August 25, 2008

[Link to article](#)

By: Traci Angel

A Connecticut teenager who was among other Boy Scouts doing service projects in the Teton area this summer contracted the bubonic plague, health officials say.

The Wyoming Health Department released information Monday that said the teenager spent time in Yellowstone National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and other sites within Teton County between July 26 and Aug. 3.

He became ill the second week of August and spent the next week in a hospital, where he was diagnosed with the disease, said Randall Nelson, state veterinarian for the Connecticut Department of Public Health. His symptoms were fever, malaise and a large swelling on the left side of his neck in the lymph node and parotid gland, he said. He was treated with antibiotics and has recovered fully, he said.

The male teenager's name will not be released because of Connecticut law, Nelson said. He had traveled with other people and no one else became sick, Nelson said.

The two state health departments are working with

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to track the source of the disease.

"We're still working with the Wyoming State Health Department and the CDC to retrace the steps of the teenager," Nelson said.

Bubonic plague can occur after a person is bitten by a rodent flea that is carrying the plague bacterium or by handling an infected animal, according to the CDC.

State health officials said this is the sixth human case of plague thought to be acquired in Wyoming since 1978. The most recent case was reported in Goshen County in 2004.

Human risk to contract the plague is low in Wyoming, said Dr. Karl Musgrave, state public health veterinarian. The state has recorded the disease in animals in 22 of Wyoming's 23 counties since records have been kept, including mountain lions in the Jackson Hole area.

State health officials said they are looking for fleas and animal carcasses in areas where the teenager may have been.

"At this time, the exact location where the exposure to the disease occurred is not known and it is likely we will never determine that level of detail," said Dr.

Tracy Murphy, state epidemiologist with the Wyoming Department of Health.

As part of the testing, CDC teams flag rodent holes. The fleas that are captured are then tested for the plague, said Mary Cernicek, spokeswoman for Bridger-Teton National Forest. She said the teenager was with a group that camped on an elk feedground and had stayed in Grant Village at one point.

Boy Scouts of America national spokesman Deron Smith said the organization is working with the CDC and was unaware of any other illnesses.

About 1,100 Scouts and adults helped with service projects this summer. They built several miles of trails along Teton Pass and removed several miles of fence in the Gros Ventre region, among other projects.

Yellowstone Visitor Diagnosed with Bubonic Plague *August 25, 2008*

[Link to article](#)

By: Scott Fuller



The victim traveled to several sites within the park with a Boy Scout troop between July 26 and August 3.

An out-of-state resident has been diagnosed with bubonic plague after recently visiting Teton County and Yellowstone National Park, the Wyoming Department of Health said Monday.

State epidemiologist Tracy Murphy says the victim traveled to several sites within the park with a Boy Scout troop between July 26 and August 3.

“The young adult traveled to Yellowstone National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and other sites within Teton County. He was involved in a combination of activities during his visit that included working on a service project, camping, sightseeing and participating in sports,” Murphy said.

Several agencies will investigate the case, including a search for fleas and animal carcasses in the areas the victim visited.

“At this time the exact location where the exposure to the disease occurred is not known and it is likely we will never determine that level of detail,” Murphy said.

The bubonic plague has been documented in animals in 22 of Wyoming's 23 counties since records have been kept.

According to the Department of Health, this is the sixth human case of plague thought to be acquired in Wyoming since 1978.

No recent cases have come from Fremont County.

The Health Department says ways to avoid the plague include: avoiding unnecessary contact with rodents and their nests and burrows, avoiding unnecessary contact with sick or dead animals, especially rodents and rabbits, and wearing protective gloves when handling sick or dead animals, and having ill pets, such as cats and dogs, examined by a veterinarian.



Bubonic Plague Diagnosed in Yellowstone Visitor

August 25, 2008

[Link to article](#)

Wyoming Department of Health officials said Monday, Aug. 25 they are investigating a case of bubonic plague in an out-of-state resident who recently visited Teton County and Yellowstone National Park. The individual traveled to multiple sites in the area with a group of Boy Scouts from July 26 to Aug. 3, said Dr. Tracy Murphy, state epidemiologist with the Wyoming Department of Health.

“The young adult traveled to Yellowstone National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and other sites within Teton County,” said Murphy. “He was involved in a combination of activities during his visit that included working on a service project, camping, sightseeing and participating in sports.”

Wyoming Department of Health staff will participate in an environmental investigation with other agencies this week to look for fleas and animal carcasses in areas where the individual visited. “At this time the exact location where the exposure to the disease occurred is not known and it is likely we will never determine that level of detail,” Murphy said.

Dr. Karl Musgrave, state public health veterinarian with the Wyoming Department of Health, said that while the risk for humans to contract plague is relatively low in Wyoming, the disease has been documented in animals in 22 of Wyoming’s 23 counties since records were kept.

This is the sixth human case of plague thought to be acquired in Wyoming since 1978. The most recent human case of plague in Wyoming was acquired in Goshen County in the fall of 2004. Other recorded

cases involving residents include a 1978 Washakie County case, a 1982 Laramie County case, a 1992 Sheridan County case that resulted in death and a 2000 Washakie County case.

“It’s safe to assume that the risk for plague exists all around Wyoming,” Musgrave said. “And while the disease is rare in humans, it is important that people take precautions to keep exposure to the disease to a minimum.”

Ways to avoid the plague include:

- Avoiding unnecessary contact with rodents and their nests and burrows.
- Avoiding unnecessary contact with sick or dead animals, especially rodents and rabbits, and wearing protective gloves when handling sick or dead animals.
- Having ill pets, such as cats and dogs, examined by a veterinarian.
- Avoiding areas where a large number of unexplained rodent deaths have been observed.
- Keeping pets away from rodent nests and burrows by keeping them leashed.
- Treating pets with flea preventatives (see your local veterinarian for more information).

Murphy said that the typical sign of the most common form of human plague is a swollen and very tender lymph gland, accompanied by pain. The swollen gland is called a “bubo” (hence the term “bubonic plague”). Bubonic plague should be suspected when a person develops a swollen gland, fever, chills, headache, and extreme exhaustion and has a history of possible exposure to infected rodents, rabbits, or fleas. Murphy advised anyone experiencing these symptoms to see their health care provider.