

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

October 29, 2018

NOTICE
15.2

TO: All Commanding Officers

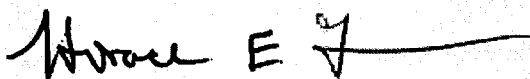
FROM: Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BULLETIN VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1 -
FLEA-BORNE TYPHUS OUTBREAK

The Emergency Preparedness Bulletin, Volume 1, No. 1, entitled Flea-Borne Typhus Outbreak is now available on the Department's Local Area Network under the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator link. The Emergency Preparedness Bulletins may be found in Volume 10 of the Emergency Operations Guide.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this Notice, please contact the Emergency Preparedness Unit, Emergency Services Division, at (213) 486-5730.

APPROVED:



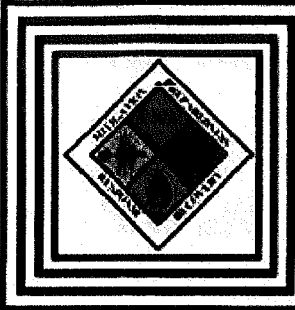
HORACE E FRANK, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau



BOB GREEN, Deputy Chief
Chief of Staff
Office of the Chief of Police

Attachment

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**Los Angeles Police Department
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau**

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
BULLETIN**

Volume 1, Number 1

OCTOBER 2018

Prepared by Emergency Services Division

Flea-Borne Typhus Outbreak

Safety Message: The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) has issued a health alert stemming from a recent outbreak of endemic flea-borne typhus in downtown Los Angeles. Six of the nine cases thus far have occurred in persons experiencing homelessness or living in interim housing. All affected persons were hospitalized and no deaths have occurred. Currently, the LACDPH is working with the City of Los Angeles to identify and reduce the environmental risk for exposure to typhus.

CURRENT AREA OF CONCERN

Third Street to the North / Seventh Street to the South / Alameda Street to the East / Spring Street to the West.

Background: Flea-Borne Typhus, also known as murine or endemic typhus, is a disease transmitted by fleas infected with *Rickettsia felis* or *Rickettsia typhi*. Flea-Borne Typhus is endemic to Los Angeles County with cases detected each year. In recent years, the average number of cases reported by the LACDPH has doubled to nearly 60 cases per year. Geographic clusters of the size occurring in downtown Los Angeles are unusual. Most cases occur in the summer and fall months.

Flea-borne typhus facts:

- The primary animals known to carry infected fleas include rats, feral cats and opossums. People with significant exposure to these animals are at risk of acquiring flea-borne typhus.
- Flea-borne typhus can spread to humans from bacteria found in infected fleas. Infection happens when the feces from infected fleas are rubbed into cuts or scrapes in the skin or rubbed into the eyes.
- Symptoms can start within two weeks after contact with the infected flea and include high fever, chills and body aches. A rash can appear on the chest, back, arms or legs. In rare cases, there may be swelling at the lining of the brain (meningitis) and heart valves (endocarditis).
- Typhus is not person-to-person transmissible. Humans are a dead-end host for flea-borne typhus.
- Currently, there is no vaccine for flea-borne typhus. However, it is readily treated with antibiotics.

If you are exhibiting symptoms associated with typhus, you should immediately notify a Department supervisor, and seek appropriate medical treatment.

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Prevention

- Consider using Environmental Protection Agency - registered flea repellents with "DEET".
- Avoid petting or feeding stray animals.
- Wear eye protection, gloves and masks when decontaminating equipment.
- Cover all minor abrasions and scrapes with appropriate bandaging.
- Store trash and other food sources in secured bins.
- Keep station doors and other portals of entry closed at all times.

Any questions regarding the content of this Bulletin should be directed to the Emergency Preparedness Unit, Emergency Services Division, at (213) 486-5730.

REFERENCES

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Flea-borne (Endemic) Typhus, webpage: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/VectorTyphus.htm
- California Department of Public Health Typhus (Flea-Borne) webpage: www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Typhus.aspx
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Typhus Fevers webpage: www.cdc.gov/typhus/murine/