

Flea-borne typhus outbreak in Los Angeles County

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(HealthDay)—An outbreak of flea-borne typhus in Los Angeles County

has so far resulted in 57 cases, including 20 in Pasadena and nine in downtown Los Angeles, public health officials say.

Symptoms of the bacterial disease include high fever, chills, headache, body aches, and rash.

"Typhus fever is a disease that can cause serious complications requiring lengthy hospitalization, and rarely, death," said Ying-Ying Goh, M.D., Pasadena's health officer, *CNN* reported. She advised residents to take precautions to prevent fleas in and around their homes, such as keeping yards free of debris and well trimmed, not leaving pet food outdoors, not giving food or water to wild animals, keeping garbage containers tightly covered, sealing crawlspaces under the home, and treating pets regularly with flea control products.

"Since the disease is spread by fleas, it is possible that endemic [typhus](#) could be transmitted year-round. Right now, it's hard to speculate on why we are seeing more cases. There is an ongoing investigation by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health that seeks to answer this question," said Anne Rimoin, Ph.D., an associate professor of epidemiology at the University of California School of Public Health, *CNN* reported. She added that "a thorough [public health](#) investigation will provide clues as to whether or not we should expect a rise in cases elsewhere."

More information: [CNN Article](#)
[More Information: CDC](#)

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