

Topic: Smallpox
Class: B.Sc Part –III (Hons.)
Paper- VII
Group – A

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Types of Smallpox

- There were two common and two rare forms of smallpox.
- The two common forms were known as variola minor and variola major.
- Variola minor was a less fatal type of smallpox.
- The centers for Disease control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that only 1 percent of those infected died.
- However, it was less common than variola major.

- The CDC estimates that 90 percent of smallpox cases were variola major.
- Historically, this type of smallpox killed 30 percent of those infected.
- The two rare forms of smallpox were known as hemorrhagic and malignant.
- Both of these rare forms of smallpox carried a very high fatality rate.

- Hemorrhagic smallpox caused organs to leak blood into the mucous membranes and skin.
- Malignant smallpox lesions did not develop into pustules or pus-filled bumps on the skin.
- Instead, they remained soft and flat throughout the entire illness.

How Do You Catch Smallpox?

- One of the reasons smallpox was so dangerous and deadly is because it's an airborne disease.
- Airborne diseases tend to spread fast.
- Coughing, sneezing, or direct contact with any bodily fluids could spread the smallpox virus.
- In addition, sharing contaminated clothing or bedding could lead to infection.