

# Black Death Station #3

## Symptoms

**#1.**

**Primary Source: from Boccaccio's *Decameron***

“It began with swellings in the groin and armpit, in both men and women, some of which were as big as apples and some of which were shaped like eggs, some were small and others were large; the common people called these swellings gavoccioli. From these two parts of the body, the deadly gavaccioli would begin to spread and within a short while would appear over the entire body in various spots; the disease at this point began to take on the qualities of a deadly sickness, and the body would be covered with dark and livid spots, which would appear in great numbers on the arms, the thighs, and other parts of the body; some were large and widely spaced while some were small and bunched together. And just like the gavaciolli earlier, these were warnings of coming death.”

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**#2.**

**YouTube Video: “What Was the Black Death? What were the Symptoms?”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7OWLohZ fs>

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#3

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#4.



**Day 1** Painful swellings called buboes appeared in the victim's armpits and groin. These were usually about the size of an egg, but could sometimes be as big as an apple.



**Day 4** The disease attacked the nervous system. This caused the victim to suffer spasms. The victim was in terrible pain.



**Day 2** The victim vomited and developed a fever.



**Day 5** Sometimes the buboes burst and a foul-smelling black liquid oozed from the open boils. When this happened the victim usually lived. However, in most cases the victim suffered a painful death.



**Day 3** Bleeding under the skin caused dark blotches all over the body.

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## #5.

Primary Source: Jean de Venette on the Progress of the Black Death (France)

“In Paris and in the kingdom of France, and also in other parts of the world, [the spread of the Black Death] was so great that it was almost impossible to bury the dead. People lay ill little more than two or three days and died suddenly, as it were in full health. He who was well one day was dead the next and being carried to his grave. Swellings appeared suddenly in the armpit or in the groin -- in many cases both -- and they were always signs of death. This sickness or pestilence was called an epidemic by the doctors. Nothing like the great numbers who died in the years 1348 and 1349 has been heard of or seen of in times past. This plague and disease came from *ymaginatione* or association and contagion, for if a well man visited the sick he only rarely escaped the risk of death.”