

## Passage 4

Smallpox has a number of unique characteristics which made its eradication possible. Its symptoms develop quickly, making those infected aware of the disease at an early stage and reducing the possibility of them unknowingly transmitting the disease to others. Because it is almost completely specific to humans, there is a very low possibility of smallpox being kept alive in animals to reinfect humans. The availability of effective vaccines was also a necessary factor. Finally, the high level of mortality from the disease made it easier to achieve global agreement on its eradication.

Although smallpox has ceased to kill, it remains a potential danger to humanity. Though the possibility of the virus surviving in animals is very low, it is still a possibility. So, too, is the accidental release of material traditionally used for variolation in remote communities. However, the most pressing fear is that stocks of the variola virus set aside for research purposes could some day be used as a biological warfare agent. The proposal, in 2003, to inoculate health care staff in some countries against such a possibility shows that the potential of smallpox to kill remains as strong as ever.

- 156 . The possibility of the eradication of smallpox was due to its.....
- low morbidity rate
  - distinct and specific features
  - high rate of reinfection of people and animals
  - lack of noticeable symptoms
- 157 . At an early stage of smallpox, most patients .....
- become more vulnerable to death
  - seem likely to transmit the disease
  - manifest the disease symptoms
  - tend to move to remote communities
- 158 . All of the following can be the potential causes of the spread of smallpox except .....
- rapid transmission of the disease at early stages
  - the available stock of variola virus in research centers
  - the possibility of virus surviving in animals
  - release of its virus used for variolation
- 159 . Inoculation of health care staff is performed because .....
- smallpox is prevalent in some regions
  - eradication has failed in some countries
  - the disease is completely specific to humans
  - the disease can still pose a threat to humans
- 160 . The accidental release of variolation material .....
- is predicted in near future
  - can cause a major disaster
  - is not a threat anymore
  - is unlikely to cause mortalities

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