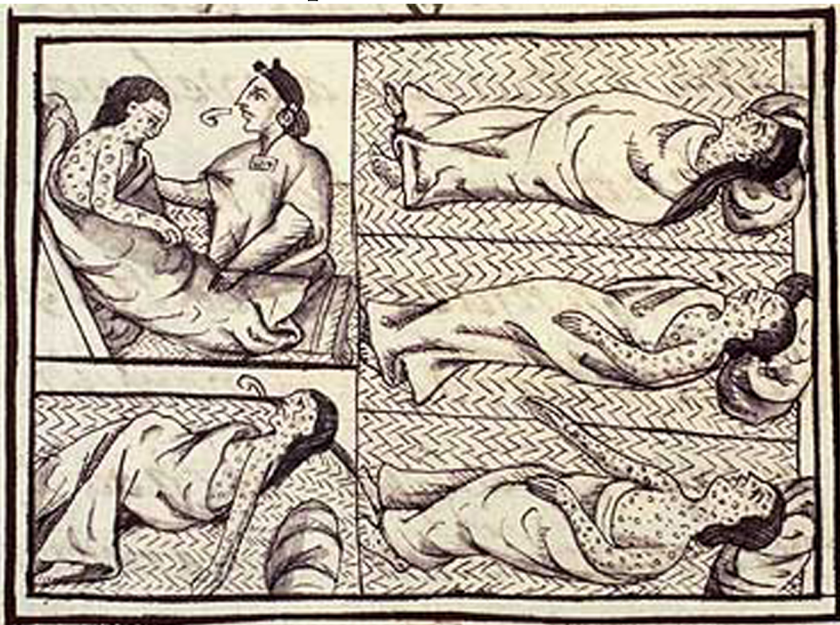


“The Great Dying”, Epidemics in Maine

European contact introduced diseases that were devastating to the Native American population in Maine and the Maritimes. At the time no one understood what was happening to the Native American population. Many people were getting a host of diseases such as smallpox, hepatitis, measles, chicken pox, influenza, and even the common flu. Smallpox was the most devastating in the time that is call “the great dying.” An estimated 75% to 90% of the Native American population was lost in this small span of time. Entire villages were wiped out.

While the Native American were dying in great numbers, the European population was surviving. **Jesuit Priests**, who lived among the Indians, remained healthy. We know today that this happened because the Europeans had faced these diseases before and they had built up immunities against these diseases. Even more devastating than loss of population, the Native American people lost faith in their traditional healers in the communities. Tribes and families were torn apart. Respected leaders died along-side villagers. The Native American society and way of life began to crumble.

The beginning of the Great Dying starts the same time that the **Micmac Wars** end. When the Micmac obtained guns from **Port Royal** they may have contracted European diseases.



Today we get shots as children. These immunizations help our bodies fight the diseases by introducing it to the body in small doses. The body reacts by creating antibodies to fight future exposures.



1616-1619