



CDC Reports Surge of Rabbit Fever Cases in Humans

Description

There has been an increase in cases of tularemia, an infectious disease also known as 'rabbit fever', in the US. The disease is caused by a bacterium called *Francisella tularensis* and can be spread to humans in various ways, such as through bites from infected ticks and deer flies, or contact with infected animals like rabbits, hares, and rodents. Surprisingly, even mowing over nests of infected animals can spread the bacteria.

There have been outbreaks of tularemia linked to lawn mowing incidents, leading to cases and even deaths. The CDC monitors this bacterium closely because it is classified as a Tier 1 Select Agent with bioterrorism potential. The disease can be deadly if not treated promptly.

Although tularemia is relatively rare compared to other illnesses like salmonella poisoning, the number of cases has increased in recent years. It can be challenging to diagnose due to varying symptoms, but awareness of how it spreads can help prevent exposure and early treatment. To learn more, you can read the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL2

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