



Health Officials Confirm Death of New Mexico Man due to Plague

Description

A noteworthy incident has shaken the state of New Mexico as health officials announced the demise of a resident due to plague, marking an unfortunate recurrence of human fatalities since 2020. This individual resided in Lincoln County, situated toward the southeast region of the state. Prior to his death, he was hospitalized following a diagnosis of the disease, the New Mexico Department of Health expounded in a press release disseminated last week.

Although details defining his identity such as his name, age, or ethnic background were not forthcoming, what's evident is the lethality of the disease if not promptly treated. It's worth noting that plague, a bacterial infection, can effectively be managed using widely available antibiotics. A favorable prognosis highly depends on the patient's swift action to seek medical intervention, as emphasized by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As part of the response plan, staff from the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) have embarked on initiatives to contact Lincoln County inhabitants and conduct a meticulous assessment of the surrounding environment to evaluate potential risks. The preceding case of human plague infection reported in New Mexico was a resident of Torrance County in 2021, while the year 2020 observed four cases, including one death in Rio Arriba County.

Plague, typically associated with the annihilation of millions during the European Middle Ages, continues to persist contrary to common belief. It is not, by any means, an extinct disease, clarified State Public Health Veterinarian Dr. Erin Phipps in her conversation with ABC News.

Manifesting as the result of *Yersinia pestis* bacteria, plague is prevalent in the western expanse of the United States, especially in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah's rural and semi-rural locations, as per the CDC. Frequently affecting several wild rodent species, including wood rats, rock squirrels, ground squirrels, mice, and prairie dogs, plague can be transmitted to humans through rodent flea bites or direct contact with an infected creature, including domesticated animals.

Phipps detailed three variants of plague: bubonic, identified by swollen lymph nodes or buboes; septicemic, resulting from the bacteria's entry into the bloodstream; and pneumonic plague, following the infection's presence in the lungs. Other common symptoms comprise of headaches, fever, chills, and fatigue.

Given its rarity, plague symptoms, apart from the distinctive buboes, can easily be confused with other illnesses making an accurate diagnosis by a medical professional crucial, Phipps explained. While it resulted in two-thirds of patients dying before the advent of antibiotics, the current fatality rate has been mitigated to 10%.

To minimize the risk, the NMDOH advises responsible cleanliness near homes to deter rodent habitation, preventing pets from freely roaming and hunting, storing pet food out of rodents' reach, and maintaining a significant distance between residential buildings and hay or wood piles.

The state of New Mexico incident has emerged shortly after a similar occurrence in Oregon, where a



resident contracted plague, likely from a pet cat, reinforcing the need for vigilance against this recurrent malady.

Dr. Phipps cautioned, "We hope by enhancing awareness, we can facilitate early diagnosis and treatment." Adding, "Ensuring plague remains on the radar helps people protect themselves, especially if residing in or near rural areas that harbor wild rodent populations."

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Demise** // (noun): The death of a person.
2. **Recur** // (verb): Happen again or repeatedly.
3. **Lethality** // (noun): The quality of being deadly or fatal.
4. **Inhabitant** // (noun): A person or animal that lives in or occupies a place.
5. **Eradication** // (noun): The complete destruction of something.
6. **Prognosis** // (noun): A forecast of the likely course of a disease or situation.

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which type of representation uses images or graphics to convey information?
Option: Written
Option: Verbal
Option: Pictorial
Option: Numerical
2. Which word means in a way that involves great danger or risk?
Option: Comfortably
Option: Carefully
Option: Happily
Option: Perilously
3. Which tiny blood vessels connect arteries to veins?
Option: Arteries
Option: Veins
Option: Capillaries
Option: Heart chambers
4. What term describes the ability of an organism to endure environmental conditions?
Option: Sensitivity
Option: Resistance
Option: Tolerance
Option: Intolerance
5. What are the likely consequences or effects of an action event or decision?
Option: Reasons
Option: Causes
Option: Impacts
Option: Implications
6. Which term means deeply established or firmly fixed?
Option: Superficial
Option: Temporary
Option: Flexible
Option: Ingrained
7. What word means to make something bad or unsatisfactory better?
Option: Exacerbate
Option: Aggravate
Option: Worsen



Option: Ameliorate

8. What term refers to the likely course or outcome of a disease or situation?

- Option: Diagnosis
- Option: Remission
- Option: Prognosis
- Option: Mortality

9. What is the term for a mutual relationship or connection between two or more things?

- Option: Causation
- Option: Correlations
- Option: Analogies
- Option: Confusion

10. Which term refers to the action of increasing or improving something?

- Option: Diminishment
- Option: Reduction
- Option: Decline
- Option: Enhancement

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. I _____ the opportunity to travel to new countries and experience different cultures.

12. The discovery of water on Mars has raised questions about the _____ of life beyond Earth.

13. The company faced financial difficulties that ultimately led to its _____ in the market.

14. Regular exercise and a healthy diet can contribute to a longer _____ and better overall health.

15. The _____ of the snakebite depends on the type of snake and the availability of medical treatment.

16. At the end of the week the team had a _____ meeting to discuss project updates and next steps.



17. After successful treatment the doctor warned the patient about the possibility of cancer _____ in the future.
18. The study analyzed the factors contributing to infant _____ rates in developing countries.
19. The athlete underwent various _____ tests to assess her overall physical condition and performance potential.
20. The remote island is home to a few thousand _____ who live in harmony with nature.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The construction of the dam required years of planning and thousands of workers to complete.
22. Regular exercise is important for maintaining a healthy system and reducing the risk of heart disease.
23. The patient suffered from pain in his back requiring long-term treatment and management.
24. The textbook presented complex ideas in a clear and easily format for students to understand.
25. The government launched a campaign for the of malaria in the region by eliminating mosquito breeding grounds.
26. The process of involves adjusting biological rhythms to external environmental cycles like the sleep-wake cycle.
27. Fever cough and fatigue are common of influenza.
28. The team had to reach a sales by the end of the quarter to qualify for the bonus.
29. The chef prepared a meal that delighted the taste buds of all the guests at the party.
30. The project manager displayed a high level of for unexpected delays and changes in the project schedule.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Pictorial 2. Perilously 3. Capillaries 4. Tolerance 5. Implications 6. Ingrained 7. Ameliorate
8. Prognosis 9. Correlations 10. Enhancement

Gap-Fill: 11. relish 12. existence 13. demise 14. longevity 15. lethality 16. roundup 17. recurrence 18.
mortality 19. physiological 20. inhabitants

Matching sentence: 1. colossal 2. cardiovascular 3. chronic 4. digestible 5. eradication 6. entrainment
7. symptoms 8. threshold 9. palatable 10. tolerance

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL5

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