



Leptospirosis Outbreak in NYC Linked to Rat Urine Spread causing Illness in People

Description

New York City is facing a rise in cases of a rare disease linked to exposure to rat urine, following the appointment of a "rat czar" to tackle the rodent population. Sanitation workers, who are frequently exposed to rats, are particularly at risk, with cases of leptospirosis on the rise.

The disease, which can result in severe symptoms such as kidney and liver failure, has already affected six sanitation workers in 2024 alone. Despite efforts to promote cleaner streets and reduce rat numbers, workers remain at risk due to contact with rat urine.

Health officials have emphasized the importance of preventive measures, such as wearing gloves and avoiding direct contact with rats. The city is also exploring new approaches to trash collection to minimize workers' exposure to rats.

Efforts to control the rat population have gained attention following the death of an owl in Central Park, which was found to have elevated levels of rat poison in its system. City officials are actively working to address the issue and prevent further spread of the disease.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Leptospirosis** /ləʊˈmɪˌsɪˌroʊˌsɪz/ (noun): A rare bacterial disease that can be transmitted through contact with rat urine.
2. **Rodent** /ˈrɒdɪnt/ (noun): An animal of the order Rodentia characterized by continuously growing incisors and including rats, mice, squirrels, etc.
3. **Severe** /sɪˈvɪə/ (adjective): Of great intensity or harshness; serious or grave.
4. **Symptoms** /ˈsɪmptəmz/ (noun): Indications of a disease or medical condition experienced by a patient.
5. **Preventive** /prɪˈventɪv/ (adjective): Intended to prevent something undesirable from happening.
6. **Exposure** /ɪkˈspəʊʒə/ (noun): Contact with a substance or a situation that causes potential harm.

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. Which medical procedure is used to prevent certain diseases?

Option: Circadian rhythms



- Option: Vaccinations
- Option: Deep Brain Stimulation
- Option: Hypochondriac

2. Which term refers to a feeling of worry nervousness or unease about something with an uncertain outcome?

- Option: Longevity
- Option: Insomnia
- Option: Hypochondriac
- Option: Anxiety

3. Which neurological disorder primarily affects motor functions and is characterized by tremors and stiffness?

- Option: Perceives
- Option: Parkinson Disease
- Option: Leptospirosis
- Option: Rabies

4. Which term refers to the general well-being of individuals and societies including both physical and mental aspects?

- Option: Quality of Life
- Option: Fatal
- Option: Complex
- Option: Awareness

5. What field of study focuses on developing new treatments and understanding human health and diseases?

- Option: Fear
- Option: Biomedical research
- Option: Overeat
- Option: Preventive

6. Which condition is characterized by pauses in breathing during sleep?

- Option: Exposure
- Option: Sleep apnea
- Option: Misdiagnosed
- Option: Severe

7. What behavior involves consuming food in excess of the body's energy requirements?



- Option: Obsession
- Option: Longevity
- Option: Overeat
- Option: Fear

8. What can happen when a medical condition is incorrectly identified or labeled?

- Option: Type 2 diabetes
- Option: Misdiagnosed
- Option: Rabies
- Option: Symptoms

9. Which chronic condition is characterized by high levels of blood sugar resulting from the body's ineffective use of insulin?

- Option: Biomedical research
- Option: Anxiety
- Option: Type 2 diabetes
- Option: Awareness

10. Which viral disease usually transmitted through the bite of an infected animal can be prevented through vaccination?

- Option: Rabies
- Option: Deep Brain Stimulation
- Option: Hesitancy
- Option: Anxiety

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

11. _____ is an emotional response induced by a perceived threat which causes a change in brain and organ function.

12. A hypochondriac often wrongly _____ normal bodily sensations as signs of serious illness.

13. _____ is a common sleep disorder characterized by difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep.

14. Increasing public _____ about the importance of regular exercise can lead to better



health outcomes.

15. Deep Brain Stimulation is a surgical procedure used to treat movement problems like severe _____ in patients with conditions such as Parkinson Disease.

16. Effective preventive measures can reduce the risk of disease _____ to harmful pathogens.

17. The interplay of genetics and environmental factors can make diagnosing certain diseases quite _____.

18. Without appropriate treatment some cases of leptospirosis can be _____.

19. A healthy lifestyle and regular medical check-ups can contribute to a longer _____.

20. Get vaccinated as a _____ measure to avoid contracting diseases like rabies or influenza.

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

21. Some individuals exhibit vaccine due to concerns about potential side effects or misinformation.
22. Parents of children with often seek out early intervention programs and specialized therapy.
23. People with obsessive-compulsive disorder may experience intrusive thoughts or repetitive behaviors related to their .
24. Advancements in have led to breakthroughs in understanding complex diseases and developing targeted therapies.
25. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease that can be transmitted to humans through contact with infected urine.
26. Untreated sleep apnea can have consequences on cardiovascular health and overall well-being.
27. Recognizing the early warning of a medical condition can lead to timely intervention and better outcomes.



28. Chronic can significantly impact an individual's daily life and relationships.

29. Disruptions to normal can affect sleep patterns and overall health.

30. Preventive measures such as avoiding contact with contaminated water can reduce the risk of contracting .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Vaccinations 2. Anxiety 3. Parkinson Disease 4. Quality of Life 5. Biomedical research 6. Sleep apnea 7. Overeat 8. Misdiagnosed 9. Type 2 diabetes 10. Rabies

Gap-Fill: 11. Fear 12. Perceives 13. Insomnia 14. Awareness 15. Tremors 16. Exposure 17. Complex 18. Fatal 19. Longevity 20. Preventive

Matching sentence: 1. Hesitancy 2. Autism 3. Obsession 4. Biomedical research 5. Rodent 6. Severe 7. Symptoms 8. Anxiety 9. Circadian rhythms 10. Leptospirosis

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL1

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