



New Human-Infecting Virus Discovered in Florida: Unusual Origins

Description

A newly identified virus that could pose a potential risk to humans has been found in Florida. This pathogen is part of the same family of viruses as those causing measles and mumps, and its discovery came under rather unusual circumstances.

Dr. John Lednicky, a molecular biologist, had his pet cat, Pepper, deliver a common cotton mouse right at his feet. Intrigued, he decided to take the mouse to his laboratory for examination.

To his surprise, Dr. Lednicky uncovered a new kind of jeilongvirus that appears to have evolved from more prevalent strains found in regions like Africa, Asia, and South America. Previously, these viruses were believed to infect only rodents. However, recent findings show that they can also be present in bats and cats, hinting at their capacity to jump to other species, including humans.

Researchers are still uncertain whether this new virus can cause illness in humans. While jeilongviruses have occasionally led to severe respiratory issues—characterized by cough, fever, and difficulty breathing—there is no evidence they have been fatal so far.

Dr. Lednicky noted that the new virus thrives equally well in rodent, human, and nonhuman primate cells, thereby presenting a significant possibility for a spillover event. He emphasized the importance of understanding the other illnesses that animals might bring into our domestic environments.

Additionally, while the potential for human infection exists, most people are unlikely to encounter the virus, given that direct contact with infected rodent excrement is rare.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Pathogen** /'pæθ.ə.dʒən/ (noun): An organism that causes disease especially a virus or bacterium.
2. **Evolved** /ɪ'vɔːld/ (verb): Developed gradually especially from a simple to a more complex form.
3. **Prevalent** /'prev.ə.lənt/ (adjective): Widespread in a particular area or at a particular time.
4. **Uncertain** /ʌn'sɜːr.tən/ (adjective): Not definite or fixed; subject to change.
5. **Respiratory** /'respə,rɔːtəri/ (adjective): Related to breathing or the organs involved in breathing.
6. **Spillover** /'spɪl.ʊv.ər/ (noun): An incident in which something flows over or spreads into another area.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What is the new virus identified in Florida related to?
Option: Measles and mumps viruses
Option: Influenza viruses
Option: HIV
Option: Ebola virus
2. Where did Dr. John Lednicky find the new virus?
Option: In a laboratory
Option: In a forest
Option: Delivered by his cat
Option: At a hospital
3. What animals were previously believed to be infected by jeilongviruses?
Option: Only bats
Option: Only rodents
Option: Only cats
Option: Only primates
4. What signs of illness have jeilongviruses occasionally caused in humans?
Option: Skin rash
Option: Headache
Option: Cough, fever, and difficulty breathing
Option: Stomach ache
5. Which cells does the new virus thrive equally well in?
Option: Rodent, bird, and fish cells
Option: Human, plant, and bacterial cells
Option: Rodent, human, and nonhuman primate cells
Option: Viral and fungal cells
6. Why are most people unlikely to encounter the new virus?
Option: It only infects animals
Option: It is airborne and not easily transmissible
Option: Direct contact with infected rodent excrement is rare
Option: It is specific to a remote region



True-False

7. Jeilongviruses are known to be fatal to humans.
8. The new virus was discovered by Dr. John Lednicky in Florida.
9. The new virus can only infect rodents.
10. Dr. Lednicky emphasized the importance of understanding animals that may introduce illnesses into domestic environments.
11. Direct contact with infected rodent excrement is a common way for humans to contract the new virus.
12. Most people are likely to encounter the new virus in their daily lives.

Gap-Fill

13. Jeilongviruses have occasionally caused severe respiratory issues in humans, characterized by cough, fever, and difficulty breathing, but there is no evidence they have been fatal _____.
14. Dr. Lednicky noted that the new virus presents a significant possibility for a spillover event due to its ability to thrive in rodent, human, and nonhuman primate cells, thereby emphasizing the importance of understanding the other illnesses that animals might bring into our _____ environments.
15. The potential for human infection by the new virus exists, but most people are unlikely to encounter it due to the rarity of direct contact with infected _____.
16. Researchers are uncertain whether the new virus can cause illness in humans because its effects have not been fatal _____.
17. The new kind of jeilongvirus found in Florida appears to have evolved from more prevalent strains found in regions like Africa, Asia, and _____.
18. Dr. John Lednicky found the new virus under rather unusual circumstances when his pet cat delivered a



common cotton mouse right at his _____ .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Measles and mumps viruses 2. Delivered by his cat 3. Only rodents 4. Cough, fever, and difficulty breathing 5. Rodent, human, and nonhuman primate cells 6. Direct contact with infected rodent excrement is rare

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. so far 14. domestic 15. rodent excrement 17. South America 18. feet

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. Which of the following is a natural response to infection or injury?

- Option: inflammation
- Option: prebiotic
- Option: nourishment
- Option: binge

2. Which type of bacteria are considered good for your gut health?

- Option: probiotics
- Option: respiratory
- Option: safeguard
- Option: diagnoses

3. Which diet is known for its emphasis on fruits vegetables and healthy fats?

- Option: mediterranean
- Option: stigma
- Option: sensory
- Option: acute

4. Which word describes being actively involved in a particular activity?

- Option: engaged
- Option: exacerbated
- Option: therapeutic
- Option: advocates

5. What term is used to describe a sudden powerful forward or upward movement?



- Option: surge
- Option: symptoms
- Option: isolation
- Option: liberating

6. Which term means causing harm or damage?

- Option: detrimental
- Option: pathogen
- Option: evolved
- Option: prevalent

7. What does safeguard mean?

- Option: safeguard
- Option: burnout
- Option: spillover
- Option: uncertain

8. Which word means experiencing severe or intense symptoms?

- Option: acute
- Option: respiratory
- Option: inflammation
- Option: surge

9. What term relates to the healing of disease?

- Option: therapeutic
- Option: probiotics
- Option: mediterranean
- Option: engaged

10. Which term is associated with a mark of disgrace?

- Option: stigma
- Option: tribute
- Option: surged
- Option: sensory

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

11. Including _____ in your diet can help reduce inflammation.

12. The patient presented with typical flu-like _____ .



13. The astronaut experienced prolonged _____ in space.
14. Traveling to a new country can be a _____ experience.
15. A _____ is a biological agent that causes disease.
16. The future of the project remains _____ due to budget constraints.
17. The organization _____ for improved healthcare policies.
18. Continuous overtime work can lead to employee _____.
19. The doctor confirmed the patient with multiple medical _____.
20. Consuming foods high in _____ can support gut health.

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

21. A balanced diet provides essential for the body to function properly.
22. Some people have the tendency to eat when feeling stressed.
23. The ceremony was held as a to the fallen soldiers.
24. Sales of the new product in the last quarter.
25. The new art installation aimed to heighten visitors' experiences.
26. The lack of rain the drought conditions in the region.
27. She is known as one of the leading for mental health awareness.
28. Over time technology has to meet changing needs.
29. Stress-related illnesses are becoming more in today's society.
30. The virus primarily affects the system leading to breathing difficulties.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. inflammation 2. probiotics 3. mediterranean 4. engaged 5. surge 6. detrimental 7. safeguard



8. acute 9. therapeutic 10. stigma

Gap-Fill: 11. legumes 12. symptoms 13. isolation 14. liberating 15. pathogen 16. uncertain 17. advocates
18. burnout 19. diagnoses 20. prebiotic

Matching sentence: 1. nourishment 2. binge 3. tribute 4. surged 5. sensory 6. exacerbated 7. advocates
8. evolved 9. prevalent 10. respiratory

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

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