



Researchers from the University of Utah are gathering samples to track the spread of Valley fever through soil spores.

Description

Researchers at the University of Utah are studying the spread of a fungal respiratory infection known as Valley fever, which is increasingly prevalent in the dust and soil of the state. Spearheaded by epidemiologist Katharine Walter, the team is attempting to determine the areas most at risk of the infection as climate change continues.

Valley fever cannot be spread from person to person, making it difficult to track. It grows in soil and remains below the surface, making detection challenging. Symptoms are flu-like and can include fatigue, cough, fever, and muscle aches, among others. The disease can often go misdiagnosed, delaying critical treatment.

The research team received a \$375,000 grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to support their investigation and raise awareness about the infection. Their effort is particularly focused in Washington County, identified as having the highest prevalence of Valley fever. Valuable samples collected from the area will aid in determining where the fungus thrives.

Experts warn, due to climate shift, Valley fever is not the only disease projected to change. Education about the detection and prevention of these diseases is vital, especially for those working in dusty, open-air professions like construction or farming. The team's aim is to provide this much-needed information and highlight the urgency of this environmental health matter.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Prevalent** // (adjective): Widespread in a particular area or at a particular time.
2. **Epidemiologist** // (noun): A specialist in the study of patternscausesand effects of health and disease conditions in defined populations.
3. **Respiratory** // (adjective): Relating to the organs of breathing.
4. **Fungal** // (adjective): Relating to or caused by a fungus.
5. **Misdiagnosed** // (adjective): Incorrectly diagnosed by a medical professional.
6. **Prevalence** // (noun): The fact or condition of being prevalent commonness.

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. Which term describes something that is widespread or commonly occurring?

- Option: Epidemiologist
- Option: Innovative
- Option: Prevalent
- Option: Proponents

2. Which term is related to a type of infection caused by molds or yeasts?

- Option: Efficient
- Option: Fungal
- Option: Dengue
- Option: Neurons

3. What is the term used for the cultivation of grapes?

- Option: Viticulture
- Option: Consistency
- Option: Delightful
- Option: Observation

4. Which term refers to a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time?



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- Option: Endemic
Option: Epidemic
Option: Sanitation
Option: Impact
5. What is the act of carefully watching or monitoring something or someone?
Option: Irrigation
Option: Observation
Option: Fluorescent
Option: Deterioration
6. Which term describes the cells that transmit information in the brain and nervous system?
Option: Concept
Option: Neurons
Option: Overwhelming
Option: Prevalence
7. What term refers to an abstract idea or general notion?
Option: Surveillance
Option: Irrigation
Option: Concept
Option: Misdiagnosed
8. Which term describes the effect or influence of one thing on another?
Option: Misdiagnosed
Option: Impact
Option: Epidemic
Option: Efficient
9. Which term relates to the human organ system responsible for breathing?
Option: Innovative
Option: Respiratory
Option: Viticulture
Option: Labeling
10. Which term refers to the conditions relating to public health especially the provision of clean drinking water and adequate sewage disposal?
Option: Consistency
Option: Sanitation
Option: Innovative
Option: Efficient



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

11. An _____ studies the patterns causes and effects of health and disease conditions in defined populations.
12. To achieve success it is important to maintain _____ in your efforts.
13. Installing an _____ irrigation system can save water and improve plant growth.
14. The _____ of diabetes is increasing globally due to changes in lifestyle.
15. An _____ approach to problem-solving can lead to unique and effective solutions.
16. Public health officials conduct ongoing _____ to monitor disease outbreaks.
17. Lack of maintenance leads to the _____ of infrastructure over time.
18. Some marine animals exhibit mesmerizing colors under _____ lighting.
19. The artist created a _____ illustration that captured the beauty of nature.
20. Effective product _____ helps consumers make informed choices.

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

21. The response to the charity drive was so positive that it was .
22. The of the new policy believe it will bring positive changes to the community.
23. The patient's symptoms were typical but often by healthcare providers.
24. The exploration of the by early settlers led to the discovery of new lands.
25. The mystery novel had a plot full of twists and turns that kept readers engaged and stimulated their curiosity.
26. During the dry season farmers rely on proper systems to water their crops.
27. Achieving success in any field often requires dedication hard work and a high level of .



28. Health authorities conduct regular to track the spread of infectious diseases.

29. The new policy had a significant on the local economy leading to increased investment.

30. The sudden outbreak of the flu became an in the region affecting a large number of people.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Prevalent 2. Fungal 3. Viticulture 4. Epidemic 5. Observation 6. Neurons 7. Concept
8. Impact 9. Respiratory 10. Sanitation

Gap-Fill: 11. Epidemiologist 12. Consistency 13. Efficient 14. Prevalence 15. Innovative 16. Surveillance
17. Deterioration 18. Fluorescent 19. Delightful 20. Labeling

Matching sentence: 1. Overwhelming 2. Proponents 3. Misdiagnosed 4. Americas 5. Intriguing 6. Irrigation
7. Consistency 8. Surveillance 9. Impact 10. Epidemic

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

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