



Westmoreland Health Authorities Enhance Hantavirus Monitoring

Description

Health authorities in Westmoreland, Jamaica, have heightened surveillance activities in response to regional concerns about hantavirus, despite no confirmed cases within the country. Dr. Marcia Graham, the region's Medical Officer of Health, disclosed these measures during a meeting of the Westmoreland Municipal Corporation in Savanna-la-Mar.

Dr. Graham emphasised the intensified monitoring at Jamaica's ports of entry to mitigate any potential exposure to the virus through international travel. She explained that individuals who may have been in contact with the virus will be closely monitored, given that hantavirus can have an incubation period of one to eight weeks. Those infected are typically quarantined for a minimum of six weeks.

Reassuring the public, Dr. Graham stated that currently, there are no suspected or confirmed cases of hantavirus under surveillance in Jamaica. Nonetheless, she urged the community to refrain from spreading misinformation, highlighting the circulation of false public health notices using the Ministry of Health and Wellness's logo on social media platforms.

The Medical Officer also advised residents to verify health-related information through trustworthy sources such as the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Furthermore, Dr. Graham reiterated the importance of preventing mosquito breeding and controlling rodent populations in local communities. She raised concerns regarding the ongoing issue of accidental poisoning among children, urging parents to securely store harmful household chemicals and other dangerous substances out of their reach.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who disclosed the heightened surveillance measures in Westmoreland, Jamaica?

- Option: Dr. Andrew Smith
- Option: Dr. Marcia Graham
- Option: Dr. John Doe
- Option: Dr. Sarah Lee



2. What is the incubation period for hantavirus?

- Option: 1 to 3 weeks
- Option: 1 to 5 days
- Option: 1 to 8 weeks
- Option: 2 to 4 weeks

3. What minimum quarantine period is required for those infected with hantavirus?

- Option: 2 weeks
- Option: 4 weeks
- Option: 6 weeks
- Option: 8 weeks

4. What did Dr. Graham urge the community to refrain from spreading?

- Option: Accurate health information
- Option: Public health notices
- Option: Misinformation
- Option: Sickness updates

5. Which organization did Dr. Graham suggest for verifying health-related information?

- Option: World Health Organization
- Option: World Health Assembly
- Option: United Nations
- Option: International Red Cross

6. What issue does Dr. Graham highlight regarding children?

- Option: Malnutrition
- Option: Accidental poisoning
- Option: Insect bites
- Option: Lack of exercise

True-False

7. There have been confirmed cases of hantavirus in Jamaica.

8. Dr. Graham is the region's Medical Officer of Health.

9. The Ministry of Health has no involvement in the misinformation spread on social media.



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10. Hantavirus can be contracted within a very short period of time after exposure.
 11. Dr. Graham emphasized the need to prevent mosquito breeding and control rodent populations.
 12. Parents are encouraged to keep dangerous household chemicals out of children's reach.

Gap-Fill

13. Dr. Marcia Graham disclosed the heightened surveillance activities in response to regional concerns about _____.
14. The incubation period for hantavirus can range from one to _____ weeks.
15. Those infected with hantavirus are typically quarantined for a minimum of _____ weeks.
16. Dr. Graham urged the community to refrain from spreading _____.
17. Residents should verify health-related information through trustworthy _____.
18. Dr. Graham raised concerns about accidental _____ among children.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Dr. Marcia Graham 2. 1 to 8 weeks 3. 6 weeks 4. Misinformation 5. World Health Organization 6. Accidental poisoning

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

Gap-Fill: 13. hantavirus 14. eight 15. six 16. misinformation 17. sources 18. poisoning

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL6

POST TAG

1. ESL learning
2. esl news
3. hantavirus
4. health authorities
5. Level 6



6. Westmoreland

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