



Westmoreland Health Authorities Increase Hantavirus Monitoring

Description

Health authorities in Westmoreland, Jamaica, are increasing surveillance due to concerns about hantavirus, despite no confirmed cases in the country. Medical Officer of Health Dr Marcia Graham highlighted this issue during a presentation at the Westmoreland Municipal Corporation meeting on Thursday, May 14.

Dr Graham explained that the monitoring process at Jamaica's ports of entry has intensified to reduce potential exposure to the virus through travel. The hantavirus has an incubation period of one to eight weeks, so individuals identified as possible contacts are carefully monitored. If someone contracts the virus, they may need to be quarantined for at least six weeks.

Currently, there are no suspected or confirmed cases of hantavirus in Jamaica, according to Dr Graham. However, she cautioned residents against sharing misinformation, as false public health notices featuring the Ministry of Health and Wellness's logo have been circulating on social media. She urged the public to verify information using reputable sources, such as the Ministry, the World Health Organization, and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Additionally, Dr Graham stressed the importance of promoting mosquito breeding prevention and rodent control within communities. She also expressed concern over ongoing cases of accidental poisoning among children in the parish. According to her, many children continue to be admitted to hospitals for accidental poisoning, prompting her to advise parents and caregivers to securely store hazardous household chemicals out of children's reach.

Vocabulary List:

1. **surveillance** //sə'veɪləns// (noun): watching people or places to find problems
2. **incubation** //,ɪŋkjə'beɪʃən// (noun): time between infection and when symptoms appear
3. **quarantined** //'kwɔrən,tɪ:nd// (verb): kept away from others to prevent spread
4. **misinformation** //,mɪsɪnfər'meɪʃən// (noun): false or wrong information shared with people
5. **reputable** //'reɪpjətəbəl// (adjective): trusted because it is honest and accurate
6. **rodent** //'rɒdənt// (noun): small mammal like rats or mice

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What virus are health authorities in Westmoreland, Jamaica, concerned about?
Option: Influenza
Option: Hantavirus
Option: COVID-19
Option: Zika Virus

2. Who is the Medical Officer of Health mentioned in the article?
Option: Dr. John Smith
Option: Dr. Marcia Graham
Option: Dr. Sarah Johnson
Option: Dr. Liam Brown

3. What is the incubation period for hantavirus?
Option: 1-3 days
Option: 1-2 weeks
Option: 1-8 weeks
Option: 1-10 days

4. How long may someone need to be quarantined if they contract hantavirus?
Option: Two weeks
Option: Four weeks
Option: Six weeks
Option: Eight weeks

5. According to Dr. Graham, which organization should the public verify information with?
Option: World Health Organization
Option: World Wildlife Fund
Option: United Nations
Option: International Red Cross

6. What issue did Dr. Graham express concern about regarding children in the parish?
Option: Infection rates
Option: Accidental poisoning
Option: Malnutrition
Option: Lack of education



True-False

7. Health authorities have confirmed multiple cases of hantavirus in Jamaica.
8. Dr. Marcia Graham presented at a meeting on May 14.
9. Information about hantavirus should only be shared on social media.
10. Residents have been cautioned against sharing misinformation.
11. The Ministry of Health and Wellness is not involved in verifying health information.
12. Dr. Graham encourages promoting mosquito breeding prevention in communities.

Gap-Fill

13. The incubation period for hantavirus is typically _____.
14. Individuals who are possible contacts of hantavirus are being _____.
15. Dr. Graham advised parents to securely store hazardous household chemicals out of children's _____.
16. Currently, there are no suspected cases of hantavirus in _____.
17. False public health notices are featuring the logo of the Ministry of Health and _____.
18. Residents must verify information using reputable sources such as the _____.

Answer

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

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 1 to 8 weeks 14. monitored 15. reach 16. Jamaica 17. Wellness 18. World Health Organization

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL5



POST TAG

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

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Author

aimeeyoung99

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