

New Discovery Could Help Fight Deadly Virus

LONDON - The discovery of a new strain of the deadly Ebola virus has given fresh impetus to scientists wanting to find out where it comes from.

The virus, which causes lethal bleeding and shock, kills so quickly and mercilessly that it is stirring worldwide concern.

French scientists found the new strain after tests on a Swiss research scientist infected by a chimpanzee in Ivory Coast. The researcher, who survived, was doing an autopsy on the chimp.

"Data from the long-term survey of this troop of chimpanzees could answer

Health District Immunization Clinics

Health District Immunization Clinics are open each week in and around Las Vegas. Immunizations are provided without charge to children and young adults under the age of 21 in any of three public health centers and 35 satellite clinics.

The following clinics will be open this week: May 24-30, 1995.

The Health District Will Be Closed Monday, May 29, 1995 In Observance Of Memorial Day.

District Health Center, 625 Shadow Lane, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

North Las Vegas Public Health Center, 3262 Civic Center Drive, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Henderson Public Health Center, 129 W. Lake Mead Dr., Bldg. "A", Suite #10, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Henderson WIC Office, 750 Major St., 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, May 25.

Fremont Medical Center, 4415 W. Flamingo Rd., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 27, Immunizations free to anyone who walks in.

Cheyenne Centers for Healthy Families, 3260 N. Las Vegas Blvd., 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Friday, May 26

Children entering school for the 1993/1994 fall term and are between the ages of 4 and 6 years of age, will need a booster dose of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough), (DTP), Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and a second dose of Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR). AVOID THE AUGUST SCHOOL RUSH. Please look at your child's immunization record now. No appointments necessary.

questions about the natural reservoir of the Ebola virus," Dr. Bernard Le Guenno and colleagues at the Pasteur Institute wrote Friday in the Lancet medical journal.

There are four known strains of the virus. But because it is rare and because the outbreaks have been so widely spread out,

scientists have not been able to study it properly.

"It's such a nasty virus that only laboratories that have high containment can do it," said David Simpson, a microbiologist at Queen's University in Belfast.

Simpson, who worked on the first outbreak of the virus in 1967, said the deadly effect of Ebola

on monkeys, apes and humans shows they are not the natural hosts of the virus and that it must be living in some other animal.

This is because viruses cannot live and replicate on their own. Many do not even have their own DNA — the basic building block of life. They survive by hijacking the cells of other

organisms.

Usually this process causes mild symptoms — as in a cold, or herpes, which usually exists in human bodies for a lifetime causing few effects other than the occasional cold sore. But when the virus jumps to an unaccustomed victim it can kill. So what is the Ebola host?

Most experts studying the virus suspect rats, others suspect bats.

"In the case of Lassa (fever) it's a small rat, which lives in people's houses and in the fields," said Christopher Clegg, a molecular virologist at the Center for Applied Microbiology and Research at Porton Down, in southern England.

Because the Ebola virus seems to be transmitted only by body fluids, it is unlikely that an insect is spreading it by biting victims, or that Ebola is spread in rat feces, like Lassa is.

HEALTH

Pointers For Parents Immunization Awareness Needs A Shot In The Arm

(NAPS)—Parents, do your children have all of their shots? The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), of the Department of Health and Human Services, reports that only two-thirds of American children are fully immunized by age two. This low immunization rate has led to recent outbreaks of dangerous diseases—including measles, mumps and pertussis.

"The most important thing parents can do to keep their children healthy is to ensure that they are always properly immunized," says Donna Shalala, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. "This is especially important for infants and young children, who are most at risk from preventable childhood diseases."

Here are a few facts and helpful reminders from the CDC and other child care experts:

- Dangerous diseases aren't a thing of the past. Today, children should be immunized for protection against measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, polio, influenza and hepatitis, to name a few.

- Because children need at least 11 vaccinations before age two, you should ask your pediatrician or healthcare provider about your child's immunization scheduling. Children will need to make four to five visits to their healthcare provider for shots before two years of age.

- If your child falls behind in the vaccination schedule, he or she will not have to start over. Consult with your healthcare provider about scheduling missed vaccinations. To help you stay organized, Healthtex, a leading children's playwear manufacturer, has joined with the March of



FREE IMMUNIZATION CHART: For a free copy of the Healthtex Immunization chart, send a self-addressed, stamped, business envelope to: Kids Chart (English version) or Spanish Chart (Spanish version), Healthtex, P.O. Box 21488, Greensboro, NC 27420-1488. Be sure to indicate language preference on the envelope.

Dimes to offer a free pocket-sized pull chart—in English and Spanish—showing the schedule of recommended shots.

- Remember, failure to immunize your child makes him or her susceptible to new outbreaks of disease. For example, between 1989 and 1991, a measles epidemic in the United States resulted in more than 55,000 reported cases, 11,000 hospitalizations and more than 130 deaths—more than half the victims were young children.

- Your child can be vaccinated by your pediatrician or healthcare provider—or at a public health clinic for little or no charge. For additional information from the CDC on the nearest public clinic for immunization, call 1-800-232-2522 (for answers in English) or 1-800-232-0233 (for answers in Spanish).

Sunrise Hospital Offers Free Classes On Coping With Cancer

For many people, being personally involved in a cancer treatment program or knowing someone who has been afflicted with the disease is a devastating experience. Cancer patients, and their friends and family, frequently ask, "Where can I turn to for help, information and support?"

"Together We Cope," an ongoing support group, provides such a place. Dorothy Howard from "Together We Cope," says the group's focus is guided by participants' needs, and provides not only support but a sharing environment for people afflicted by cancer.

The free sessions are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center,

3186 S. Maryland Parkway.

Enter the hospital through the Women's Pavilion entrance. Attendees should meet at the Sunrise Children's Hospital waiting area, near the South Tower.

"Together We Cope" provides support and understanding, as well as information sharing and coping strategies, to cancer victims and surviving families and friends of those who have been afflicted with cancer.

Discussion topics include stress management, lifestyle issues and the changes cancer brings.

For additional information and reservations, please call 731-8134 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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