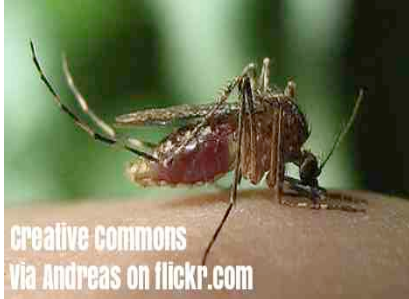


Zika virus could affect four million people

2nd February, 2016



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the Zika virus outbreak in Latin America could turn into a global pandemic. Many scientists say the

outbreak could be more serious than the Ebola virus. Ebola killed over 11,000 people in West Africa in 2014 and 2015. The WHO estimated that the Zika virus could infect four million people by the end of 2016. The virus has been advancing across South and Central America in the past year. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, warned that Zika is "spreading explosively". She added that it has quickly gone from being a mild threat to being frightening. Warmer weather means the mosquito that carries the virus is also spreading worldwide.

The Zika virus is linked to a large rise in birth defects in Brazil and surrounding countries. In particular, scientists say it causes a disease called microcephaly. This is where a baby is born with a smaller head than normal, and with brain damage. Health officials in Brazil reported that around 4,000 babies were born with microcephaly last year. This compares to fewer than 150 cases in 2014. The Colombian government has just reported that more than 2,100 pregnant women in Colombia are infected with the virus. There is no vaccine for Zika and it will be difficult to find one. A doctor said a vaccine would have to be tested on pregnant women, and that would be "a practical and ethical nightmare".

Sources: CBS News / TheGuardian.com / Wikipedia.org

Writing

More money would go into virus research if viruses affected rich countries. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

the WHO / outbreak / global / pandemic / infect / advancing / mild / frightening / linked / disease / babies / health officials / pregnant / virus / vaccine / nightmare

True / False

- The WHO has announced there is a global Zika virus pandemic. T / F
- The Ebola virus killed over 10,000 people in West Africa. T / F
- The WHO said four million people could have the Zika virus in 2016. T / F
- The article says the mosquito with the Zika virus likes cold weather. T / F
- The Zika virus is linked to many birth defects in South America. T / F
- Microcephaly is where a baby is born with a larger than average head. T / F
- There were 150 cases of microcephaly in Brazil in 2014. T / F
- A doctor does not want to test a vaccine on pregnant women. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. warned | a. usual |
| 2. global | b. moving forward |
| 3. advancing | c. danger |
| 4. mild | d. tried out |
| 5. threat | e. slight |
| 6. linked | f. advised |
| 7. normal | g. moral |
| 8. difficult | h. connected |
| 9. tested | i. hard |
| 10. ethical | j. worldwide |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about the Zika virus?
- How worried are you about the Zika virus?
- What can we do about pandemics?
- What would happen if there was a global pandemic?
- Why do virus outbreaks always happen in poorer countries?
- Should we start killing all mosquitos?
- What would you do if the Zika virus came to your area?
- What do you think viruses in the future will be like?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. turn into a global | a. explosively |
| 2. the Zika virus could infect | b. the virus |
| 3. Zika is spreading | c. women |
| 4. a mild | d. rise in birth defects |
| 5. the mosquito that carries | e. pandemic |
| 6. linked to a large | f. damage |
| 7. in Brazil and | g. threat |
| 8. brain | h. than 150 cases in 2014 |
| 9. This compares to fewer | i. four million people |
| 10. pregnant | j. surrounding countries |

Discussion – Student B

- What can the WHO do to educate people about the Zika virus?
- How will the Zika virus affect this year's Brazil Olympics?
- Why is there no vaccine for the Zika virus?
- Will there be a vaccine for all viruses one day?
- If there are no diseases, will there be an overpopulation problem?
- Why would it be a problem to find a vaccine for the Zika virus?
- Why is it a 'nightmare' to test a vaccine on pregnant women?
- What would you like to ask the WHO?

Spelling

- the Zika virus obrtkaue
- a loalqb pandemic
- the Zika virus could itcfne four million
- The virus has been avagdnicn
- a mild tthare
- the somuotiq that carries the virus
- a large rise in birth esctfde
- brain mdeaga
- This msoraepc to fewer than 150
- 2,100 negptran women
- a ceicanv would have to be tested
- a cliparcta and ethical nightmare

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. j | 3. b | 4. e | 5. c |
| 6. h | 7. a | 8. i | 9. d | 10. g |

Role Play

Role A – Money

You think money is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, a travel ban or hygiene.

Role B – Education

You think education is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): money, a travel ban or hygiene.

Role C – Travel ban

You think a travel ban is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, money or hygiene.

Role D – Hygiene

You think hygiene is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, a travel ban or money.

Speaking – Worries

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put your biggest worries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| • outbreaks | • terrorism |
| • computer viruses | • the environment |
| • war | • your looks |
| • money | • your English |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | T | c | F | d | F | e | T | f | F | g | T | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.