Plague warning given: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar

The plague is a disease that killed millions of people across Europe during the Middle Ages. It became known as the Black Death.

It appears the killer disease is back. This time it is in Madagascar, which is a holiday destination island off the coast of south east Africa. Since August, 124 people have been killed by the deadly disease. A total of 1,133 people have been affected by the outbreak of the disease. According to the latest WHO analysis, there is a ‘very high risk’ of the disease spreading.

Nearby countries and overseas territories; including South Africa, Ethiopia, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius, La Réunion, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, as well as the Comoros Islands, which are a small group of islands near Madagascar, have all been put on alert.

The Red Cross, Unicef, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), have all mobilised emergency plans in these countries. The idea is to raise awareness, and to increase surveillance at these countries’ borders.

The symptoms of plague include sudden fevers, head and body aches, vomiting and nausea. The bubonic plague is transmitted to humans by infected flees. It is the most common form of plague. It can cause inflamed lymph nodes. These can turn to puss-filled, open sores, if the condition worsens. Health officials now say the disease in Madagascar is spreading from human to human through the air, as well as animals affected through infected flea bites.

It can turn into pneumatic plague, if the infection spreads to the lungs. Of those people affected so far in Madagascar, all had developed pneumatic plague. There is a high chance of death if the plague is left untreated. Some travel advisories are warning people to avoid the country.
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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about ‘The Black Death’. One-two minutes. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three things you know about the plague in Madagascar that were in the article. Write them below. Discuss!

1) ______________________
2) ______________________
3) ______________________

Add three other things that you know about the plague. Talk about them!

1) ______________________
2) ______________________
3) ______________________

SPEAKING – DEADLY DISEASES

In pairs/As a class - Think of five other deadly diseases you could catch. Talk about each of them. Which is the worst to catch? Why? 3 mins.

1) ______________________
2) ______________________
3) ______________________
4) ______________________
5) ______________________

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

1) What do you think about what you’ve read?
2) Do you know anyone who has survived the plague?
3) What would you do if you contracted the plague?
4) Do you think the plague will spread beyond Madagascar?
5) What should the world do to help the people of Madagascar prevent this disease spreading?
6) Would you like to volunteer to help the people of Madagascar prevent the spread of the plague?
7) How would you know if someone had the plague?
8) Would you like to visit the Comoros Islands?
9) Is there a very high risk of the disease spreading?

Student B questions

1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
2) Could airlines be responsible for the spread of the Black Death?
3) What is the worst disease you have had? When was this?
4) When was the last time you visited the doctor?
5) When was the last time you suffered from a fever, had a headache or body ache, were vomiting or had nausea?
6) What advice would you offer the people of Madagascar?
7) What can the Red Cross and other such agencies do to help the situation in Madagascar?
8) What would you do if the plague spread to your country?
9) Did you like this discussion?
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GAP FILL: READING

Plague warning given: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar
The (1) __ is a disease that killed millions of people across Europe during the Middle Ages. It became known as the Black Death.

It appears the killer (2) __ is back - this time in Madagascar, which is a holiday (3) __ island off the coast of south east Africa. Since August, 124 people have been killed by the deadly disease. A total of 1,133 people have been affected by the (4) __ of the disease. According to the latest WHO (5) __, there is a 'very high (6) __' of the disease spreading.

Nearby countries and overseas (7) __; including South Africa, Ethiopia, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius, La Réunion, Mozambique, Kenya, as well as the Comoros Islands, which are a small group of islands near Madagascar, have all been put on (8) __.

alert / risk / disease / territories / plague / analysis / outbreak / destination

The Red Cross, Unicef, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), have all mobilised emergency (1) __ in these countries. The idea is to raise awareness, and to increase (2) __ at these countries’ borders.

The symptoms of plague include sudden fevers, head and body aches, vomiting and nausea. The bubonic plague is transmitted to humans by infected flees. It is the most common form of plague. It can cause inflamed (3) __. These can turn to puss-filled, open (4) __, if the (5) __ worsens. Health officials now say the disease in Madagascar is spreading from (6) __ to human through the air, as well as animals affected through infected (7) __ bites.

It can turn into pneumonic plague, if the infection spreads to the (8) __. Of those people affected so far in Madagascar, all had developed pneumonic plague.

human / surveillance / plans / condition / flea / lungs / sores / lymph nodes

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Plague warning given: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar
The plague is a disease (1) __ killed millions of people across Europe during the Middle Ages. It became known as the Black Death.

(2) __ appears the killer disease is back - (3) __ time in Madagascar, (4) __ is a holiday destination island off the coast of south east Africa. (5) __ August, 124 people have been killed by the deadly disease. A total of 1,133 people have been affected by the (6) __ outbreak of the disease. According to the latest WHO analysis, there is a 'very high risk' of the disease spreading.

Nearby countries (7) __ overseas territories; including South Africa, Ethiopia, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius, La Réunion, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, (8) __ the Comoros Islands, which are a small group of islands near Madagascar, have all been put on alert.

as well as / which / since / that / this / and / the / it

The Red Cross, Unicef, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), have all mobilised emergency plans (1) __ these countries. The idea is to raise awareness, and to increase surveillance at (2) __ countries’ borders.

The symptoms of plague include sudden fevers, head and body aches, vomiting and nausea. The bubonic plague is transmitted to humans (3) __ infected flees. It is the most common form of plague. (4) __ can cause inflamed lymph nodes. These can turn to puss-filled, open sores, (5) __ the condition worsens. Health officials now say the disease in Madagascar is spreading from human to human through the air, (6) __ animals affected through infected flea bites.

It can turn (7) __ pneumonic plague, if the infection spreads to the lungs. (8) __ those people affected so far in Madagascar, all had developed pneumonic plague.

if / of / as well as / by / in / these / into / it

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Plague warning given: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar

The plague is a disease that killed millions of people across Europe during _______________. It became known as the Black Death. It appears the killer disease is back - this time in Madagascar, which is a holiday destination island off the coast of south east Africa. Since August, 124 people have been killed by the deadly disease. A total of 1,133 people have been affected by the _______________.

According to the latest WHO analysis, there is a ‘very high risk’ of the disease spreading.

Nearby countries and _______________; including South Africa, Ethiopia, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius, La Réunion, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, as well as the Comoros Islands, _______________ group of islands near Madagascar, have all been put on alert. The Red Cross, Unicef, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), have all _______________ in these countries. The idea is to raise awareness, and to _______________ at these countries’ borders.

The _______________ include sudden fevers, head and body aches, vomiting and nausea. The bubonic plague is transmitted to humans by infected flees. It is the most common form of plague. It can cause inflamed lymph nodes. These can turn to puss-filled, open sores, if the _______________. Health officials now say the disease in Madagascar is spreading from human to human through the air, as well as animals affected through infected flea bites. It can turn into _______________, if the infection spreads to the lungs. Of those people affected so far in Madagascar, all had developed pneumonic plague. There is a high chance of death if the plague is left untreated. Some travel advisories are warning people _______________.

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs/As a class, list 10-20 things about Madagascar. What do you know about the island? It’s a nice place to go on holiday, right? Briefly, talk about each of them. Five minutes.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

1) The plague ___________________________
2) The Black Death _______________________
3) I think ______________________________

3) Write down 50 words about: Plague warning: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar. Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: Plague warning: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar. The _______________ include sudden fevers, head and body aches, vomiting and nausea. The bubonic plague is transmitted to humans by infected flees. It is the most common form of plague. It can cause inflamed lymph nodes. These can turn to puss-filled, open sores, if the _______________. Health officials now say the disease in Madagascar is spreading from human to human through the air, as well as animals affected through infected flea bites. It can turn into _______________, if the infection spreads to the lungs. Of those people affected so far in Madagascar, all had developed pneumonic plague. There is a high chance of death if the plague is left untreated. Some travel advisories are warning people _______________.

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