

City Clerk Staff

From: J. Kevin Hunt <jkhesq23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Heidi West
Cc: Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Jordan Hess
Subject: Re: HYBRID VIRUS: Why Densely Packed Indoor Shelters are Dangerous

Thanks, Councilor West, for the speedy reply.

There has not yet been a confirmed case of infection by this hybrid, which was observed in the laboratory. However, the discovery of it has raised great concern given the onset of flu season, the raging RSV epidemic, etc.

I agree with your observation that the risks from high-density indoor population settings "could also be applied more generally to all indoor spaces in which individuals are housed for long periods of time and sleep in close proximity to others in a congregate setting. The potential risk to youth in any daycare facility must be considerable."

Because the hybrid flu/RSV virus has not yet been observed in vivo, there's no basis for general, extreme measures. It may not emerge outside the lab.

Probably it would be wise to inquire of the Board of Health, however, about the risks posed to infants and young children by the current RSV epidemic. Being proactive would be smart, it would seem.

I am concerned about high density congregate indoor sheltering of houseless persons, however, because as a population cohort their vulnerability to respiratory viral infections is greater. I'm also concerned about closing ACS in this regard for the reasons stated in my email.

While it would be foolhardy to embark on restrictive measures affecting the community at large based on fear of something that has yet to happen and that may not happen, it would seem wise to not tempt fate when that could be avoided. RSV spreading throughout an indoor congregate shelter population wouldn't produce severe illness in adults who are healthy and have competent immune systems. Of course, the percentage of adults not having those attributes is higher among unhoused persons. Adults with RSV also can, even if asymptotically infected, transmit the virus to infants directly or via a chain of transmission.

I thought this should be brought to your attention so that it may factored into sheltering planning and so that monitoring of the local RSV infection situation, and vigilance in keeping up on things such as the CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* could be maintained by the Health Board, and surveillance for infant RSV outbreak maintained by PHC and all area clinics and hospitals.

Thanks again for responding and for raising the potential worst-case scenario from both the RSV epidemic and the remote but real possibility of the flu/RSV hybrid emerging from one or more persons co-infected with both viruses. Certainly, increased informational outreach and free flu immunization for the unhoused is a prudent measure that isn't disruptive of community functions. That outreach will, I believe, be very difficult with elimination of lawful camping locations serving multiple campers.

I'm not an expert on this subject but have sufficient education and experience to recognize the need to

develop a contingency plan for this kind of scenario. It would be beneficial to hear what the Health Board officer has to say on this topic.

Thanks again for your interest and quick reply.

On Thu, Nov 3, 2022 at 4:17 PM Heidi West <WestH@ci.missoula.mt.us> wrote:

Mr. Hunt,

That does indeed look like a very serious virus and with such high rates of vulnerability among infants and young children (and to preserve national capacity in children's ward) the information you shared seems to have implications far beyond limiting the occupancy numbers at the Emergency Winter Shelter Site. It could also be applied more generally to all indoor spaces in which individuals are housed for long periods of time and sleep in close proximity to others in a congregate setting. The potential risk to youth in any daycare facility must be considerable. Maybe we should consider limiting occupancy more broadly until that vaccine becomes available.

Heidi West

City Council Ward 1 Representative

405.747.9158

hwest@ci.missoula.mt.us

From: J. Kevin Hunt <jkhesq23@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 3:43 PM

To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site <Council@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Jordan Hess <HessJ@ci.missoula.mt.us>

Subject: HYBRID VIRUS: Why Densely Packed Indoor Shelters are Dangerous

Dear Mayor and Council:

Yesterday during comments to the COTW re the ACS closure I referenced a new, unprecedented in vitro discovery of a cross-viral family hybrid virus -- a reassortment of genes from Influenza and RSV -- that is of great concern to virologists, epidemiologists, vaccinologists and public health officials because:

1. We are in the midst of a national pediatric epidemiologic emergency as children's hospital wards are overflowing with very sick infants infected by ESV;
2. The Influenza Type A virus / RSV hybrid is not recognized by the human immune system; there is no vaccine; the RSV portion of the hybrid will permit it to penetrate much lower in the lungs, where the influenza portion will cause severe pulmonary disease, even in a flu-vaccinated person;
3. With much vaccine resistance among Americans, especially with regard to infants & young children, the probability of a person (child or adult) being co-infected by RSV and SARS-CoV-2 is relatively high, setting the stage for in vivo hybridization.

I submit that prudence dictates that indoor shelter occupation densities be substantially decreased, not increased. Moreover, having 150-800 unhoused persons dispersed throughout the City's wooded and riverfronted areas would make control of the hybrid virus' transmission impossible.

Additionally, when a vaccine for this hybrid becomes available, it will be much easier to immunize houseless populations when people are in one outdoor site, as opposed to scattered about in stealthy spots.

This is a very good reason to keep ACS open over the winter.

Links to articles:

<https://www.sciencealert.com/new-hybrid-virus-discovered-as-flu-and-rsv-fuse-into-single-pathogen>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/01/science/rsv-children-hospitals.html?smid=fb-share>

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/s/ J. Kevin Hunt

Ward 1 Resident

(971) 295-1969

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City Clerk Staff

From: J. Kevin Hunt <jkhesq23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 4:18 PM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Jordan Hess
Subject: How Dispersing Urban Campers Increases Fires

See story accessible via link below:

"...Nearly half of all fires in Portland now start in or near houseless camps. Five years ago, fires among unhoused Portlanders were hardly a blip. Today, there are an average of six a day. The blazes have killed at least nine unhoused people in the past four years, one-third of Portland's fire fatalities. They frighten families, displace residents and exhaust firefighters. They are a measure of civic crisis. ..."

<https://www.wweek.com/news/2022/11/02/blazes-that-begin-in-homeless-camps-now-account-for-nearly-half-the-fires-in-portland/>

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/s/ J. Kevin Hunt
Ward 1 Resident
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/s/ J. Kevin Hunt
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City Clerk Staff

From: Lori Hart
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Allison Franz; Amy Hanson; Andy Schultz; Anne Hughes; Ashley Brittner Wells (she/her); Aubrey Nilsen; Becky Goodrich; Betsy Willett; Brad Davis; Bret Serbin; Carol Blodgett; Cary Shimek; Cathy Janney; Charity Stubb; Cheryl Schatz; Chris Wolfe; Corena Maurer; David Erickson; Dennis Bragg; Don Whalen; Ed Nesselroad (pentoad@aol.com); Freddy Monares; Ginny Merriam; Gordy Hughes; Grp. PD Administration; Heather Adams; Heidi Bakula (she, hers); Heidi Meili; Heidi Starrett; Jessica Miller; Jordan Hess; Josh Burnham; Kalina Wickham (she/her); Karen Gasvoda; KECI NEWS DIRECTOR; Keila Szpaller; Kelly Elam; Kevin Slovarp; KGVO (kgvnewsroom@townsquaremedia.com); KPAX NEWS DIRECTOR (news@kpax.com); KTMF NEWS DIRECTOR (newsroom@abcfoxmontana.com); KUFM ASSISTANT NEWS DIRECTOR (edward.obrien@umontana.edu); KUFM NEWS DIRECTOR (sally.mauk@umontana.edu); Laura Zuckerman; Staci Shepard; Logan McInnis; Lori Hart; Lori Hudak; Lydia Arnold; Madeline Broom; Maritsa Georgiou; Martin Kidston; Marty Rehbein; MCAT NEWS DIRECTOR (jbaird@mcate.org); Melissa; missoulacommunityradio@gmail.com; MISSOULIAN NEWS EDITOR (newsdesk@missoulia.com); Nick Chrestenson; Nora Mabie; Paul Hamby; Peter Christian (peterc@centric.net); Rick Sanders; Rob Chaney; Ross Mollenhauer; Sarah Bell; Seaborn Larson; Seeley Swan Pathfinder; Sheila Callahan; Sherry Devlin; Teresa Waldorf; Tom Bauer; Willy Miller; Zoe Buchli
Cc: Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Staci Shepard
Subject: News Advisory: Clark Fork River Levee Repairs Begin Nov.8, Riverfront Trail Detoured
Attachments: News Advisory--Levee Repairs Begin Nov 8.pdf

Dear news professionals,

The City of Missoula's Stormwater Utility is coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on repairs to the portion of the Clark Fork River levee that runs between Russell St. and the California St. pedestrian bridge on the north side of the river. These repairs are scheduled to begin on Tuesday, November 8, but unfortunately we do not yet have an anticipated completion date. We expect to have that date next week once the Army Corps representatives are here in Missoula. We will update our project web page at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2673/Stormwater-Projects with this information as soon as it's available.

The portion of the levee undergoing repairs is adjacent to the Riverfront Trail, so we are detouring trail traffic to nearby Cedar and California streets. Travel delays should be minimal. A trail detour map is available at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2673/Stormwater-Projects.

Please see the attached news advisory for further details about this repair work and detour.

Tracy Campbell, Stormwater Utility Superintendent, will be available for interviews by contacting her at 406-830-5455 or via email at CampbellTL@ci.missoula.mt.us.

Best regards,

Lori Hart | she/her/hers | Communications Specialist
Department of Public Works & Mobility
(406) 552-6354 (office) | (406) 830-6077 (cell) | HartL@ci.missoula.mt.us
<http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/403/Public-Works>



Promoting a safe, healthy Missoula through the development of transportation and mobility networks and the efficient delivery of high-quality public infrastructure, utilities, and services.