

CHINESE PHARMA LEAK INFECTS THOUSANDS WITH BACTERIAL DISEASE

Thousands of people in north- causes brucellosis, into the air Lanzhou Health Commission



western China have tested positive for brucellosis, a disease that commonly infects livestock, after a pharmaceutical factory accidentally vented bacteria into the air last year, officials say.

At least 3,245 people have contracted the disease in Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu province, according to a statement from the city's health commission. More than 1,000 are suspected to have the disease. No fatalities have been reported since the problem was first identified last November.

The latest numbers are much higher than initially thought, the state-run reports.

Authorities have traced the leak back to the Zhongmu Lanzhou biological pharmaceutical factory, which was found to be using expired sanitizers and disinfectants. The factory accidentally vented an aerosolized version of Brucella, the bacteria that

last summer, causing it to spread across the surrounding area through the wind. Story continues below advertisement

Brucellosis, also known as Malta, Mediterranean or undulant fever, is a bacterial disease typically found in cattle, pigs, goats, sheep and dogs, according to the World Health Organization. It's also been found in humans, but it's extremely rare to see human-to-human transmission.

The disease causes flu-like symptoms including fever, weakness, weight loss and malaise, the WHO says. It can also cause long-lasting issues such as arthritis and swelling in some organs, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The pharmaceutical factory was making brucellosis vaccines for animals when the leak happened in July and August of last year, the

says.

The first infections were reported at the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute in November and December, China's state-run Xinhua News Agency reports.

Chinese authorities punished the pharmaceutical company by revoking permission for it to make various drugs.

Brucellosis can be treated with a multi-week course of antibiotics, according to the WHO.

The disease was fairly common in China until the 1980s, when vaccines and antibiotics helped the country rein it in. However, occasional outbreaks have been known to wreak havoc with livestock around the world.

Brucellosis has been effectively wiped out among livestock in Canada.

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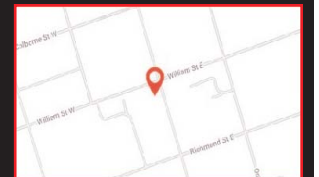


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CITY IDEA LAB TURNS COLLECTIVE MINDS TO COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Upper-year students from both Ontario Tech University and Trent University Durham GTA came together virtually during a six-week City Idea Lab course to unpack and analyze the community impacts of COVID-19 on the city of Oshawa. The summer course, titled "Strengths-based and Cooperative Community Development during Extended Crises," was the first bi-institutional City Idea Lab offered to students across different programs at both universities.

The unique course, co-taught by faculty from both universities, was a direct response to COVID-19. Using Oshawa as a case study, the course examined the impact of the pandemic and associated public health measures on communities. Students heard from the Mayor, City staff and community leaders about how COVID-19 affected the community and the City's response to the pandemic, which generated conversations about community development.

Throughout the course, students worked together to develop solutions to various common challenges local governments are facing as they look to help their communities recover. Ideas were presented virtually to City staff for possible future implementation; they included the:

- creation of a digital literacy program for older adults;
- development of an internship program for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) youth; and,
- enhancement of website information for the not-for-profit sector.

Presented ideas and course work are available for review on the City Idea Lab website.

City Idea Lab has been generously supported by RBC Futures Launch.

"This bi-institutional, virtual course highlighted the adaptability and strength of TeachingCity," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. "Students received real-time input from representatives of those who were most impacted by COVID-19 and took that information and developed exciting ideas for possible future implementation. We look forward to continuing to work with our future leaders and post-secondary partners to find innovative solutions for the Oshawa community."

"Over the last several months, we've seen how COVID-19 has exacerbated a number of already complex social issues in our communities," said Dr. Steven Murphy, President and Vice-Chancellor, Ontario Tech University. "Through this unique City Idea Lab course, students applied their creativity and research skills to develop solutions to address economic and cultural challenges cities currently face. It's exciting to see how providing experiential learning opportunities for students can lead to the improvement of the lives of residents in Oshawa and the surrounding region. Ontario Tech University looks forward to offering more innovative learning experiences for its students in the future through the City Idea Lab."

"Participation in this collaborative project was an excellent opportunity for students to understand the complexities of issues that the greater Oshawa community faces due to the pandemic," said Dr. Scott Henderson, Dean & Head, Trent University Durham GTA. "Research is at the heart of what we do—not only is it an effective way to engage with the community to find innovative solutions—but we're able to implement tangible outcomes through knowledge transfer, dialogue and ideation."

"It's inspiring to see how students came together to resolve complex issues in their community. And they did it all virtually!" said Glen Dormody, Regional Vice President of RBC's Kawartha Durham market. "City Idea Lab in Oshawa – a program supported through RBC Future Launch – is a great example of how this type of learning helps students develop critical skills they will need for the future."

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