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## Disease X - Rapid Spread

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### Key Judgments:

- The spread of Disease X is likely to continue at an alarming rate in wildlife, domestic animals, and the human population.
- All individuals should avoid consumption of any animal-based meat products acquired within the last 3-4 months to reduce the risk of contracting Disease X.
- All individuals should plan to shelter in place or relocate to a remote location with smaller population densities if available. Consideration in relocating should be given to the ability to relocate with minimal contact with other individuals (reducing the risk of contracting Disease X) as well as the availability of supplies.
- AMRRON members should begin monitoring news and nets on a regular basis for new alerts and information. Any messages or relevant information should be forwarded to AmRRON national or to regional SIGCENS.
- AMRRON Corps should begin setting up SIGCENS (Signal Centers), if feasible, with the appropriate equipment and supplies to operate for an extended time period. Provisions for protective equipment, food, fuel, and security should be taken into consideration.
- Notify family members of the current situation and provide guidance as to the steps that they should take. Avoid travelling or gathering into groups if possible.
- Procure protective equipment including: nitrile gloves, disposable gowns, hair covers, eye covers, masks (N95 or better yet N100 with pink filters).

### Introduction:

What is now being referred to as "disease X" was first identified in wildlife populations in the eastern panhandle of WV. Disease X is an aggressive form of chronic wasting disease (CWD). CWD is a prion based disease that causes cavities to form in the brain of infected animals leading to death.

Disease X began to appear in domestic livestock and poultry in the eastern panhandle of WV then spreading first to the mid-Atlantic region, then through the south and midwest region, and eventually into western states. As a result, the USDA mandated a mass eradication and cremation of livestock. Unsubstantiated reports of shortages of beef, poultry, and pork are being reported with some stores limiting purchases of these products.

The US Fish and Wildlife service have found evidence of an unusual die off of Canadian geese and ducks in the east, central and pacific flyways. It is currently unknown if this is related to Disease X.



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Cases of Disease X appearing in humans, beginning with individuals who had consumed venison from the original infected zone, have now spread to 150 unrelated cases in the south/southwest region. There are unsubstantiated reports of outbreaks in Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Great Britain.

Officials from the CDC, DHS, HHS and FEMA have now issued the following statement: "Our research has concluded that we are entering the 90 - 100 day window where symptoms of disease X, a prion based disease, may be dramatically expanding based on extrapolation from the number of initial cases seen in April and May." These officials have recommended that individuals limit travel and avoid large gatherings. Individuals are instructed not to go to the hospital if symptoms are detected, instead to contact their local public health department and report symptoms to them.

There has been no indication of a cure for Disease X once it is contracted in wildlife, domestic animals, or the human population. There has been no indication of a vaccine for wildlife, domestic animals, or the human population to prevent contracting Disease X.

### **Background:**

2018/04/21 – Officials and wildlife biologists of the WVDNR investigate reports of a massive die off of whitetail deer, wild turkeys, coyotes, and raptor species in the eastern panhandle of WV. Initial investigations reveal extensive encephalopathy and necrosis of brain neural tissue similar to that found in cases of CWD. A definitive cause is still pending, however, it is determined that it is not from any known viral or bacterial infection.

2018/04/29 – WVDNR officials report that X disease has begun to appear in domestic livestock and poultry on several farms throughout the region.

2018/05/06 – USDA and WVDNR identify the cause of X disease as an aggressive form of chronic wasting disease (CWD). CWD is a prion based disease that causes cavities to form in the brain of infected animals leading to death.

2018/05/06 – USDA recalls beef, pork, and poultry products from several manufacturers in the mid-Atlantic region. Several brands of animal feeds that contain "animal protein byproducts" are also recalled.

2018/05/24 – CDC reports that "several" individuals who had consumed venison from the effected region have contracted symptoms consistent with a diagnosis of encephalopathy. Two individuals have died while others are in various stages of neural deterioration.

May 27, 2018 – Cattle ranchers, pork producers, poultry farms, and meat processing facilities throughout the south and midwest report "hundreds" of animals displaying abnormal behavior such as repetitive circling, staggering, and severe drooling.

2018/06/06 – USDA mandates a mass eradication and cremation of livestock. Current figures for the



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losses are 1.2 million chickens, 50,000 pigs and 150,000 head of cattle. Farmers and meat producers have filled suit for an injunction until it can be proven that the animals are infected with X disease.

2018/06/07 – In a day of heavy sell offs and losses, the commodities markets have posted record losses in cattle, pork and poultry futures. This prompted the FTC to call a moratorium on trading until the market has stabilized.

2018/06/13 – The USDA reports that it has found infected cattle in 3 additional western states (Idaho, Montana and Nevada). The BLM and USFS have issued a moratorium on grazing on public lands in those states until the method of transmission in these herds is positively identified.

2018/06/16 – The US Fish and Wildlife service reports that they have found evidence of an unusual die off of Canadian geese and ducks in the east, central and pacific flyways. It is unknown if this is related to X disease until further autopsies and test are performed.

2018/06/26 – There are reports from ranchers and citizens in central Montana and north central Nevada that the National Guard and private contractors are excavating massive burn pits in remote regions. Several livestock trucks have been seen headed to those locations.

2018/06/29 – The CDC reports that they have identified 150 new cases of disease X in Houston, Oklahoma City, Las Vegas, Boise and Atlanta. These are unrelated to the initial outbreak among hunters consuming contaminated deer. A vector is still being researched. The NIH has identified disease X as "transmissible spongiform encephalopathy" or TSE.

2018/07/05 – SW listener reports that he picked up Spanish language SW broadcast discussing disease effecting cattle, goats, sheep and humans in Argentina. Symptoms are consistent with those of "disease X" in the USA. Requests to WHO regarding spread of "disease X" outside of the USA remain unanswered. There are unsubstantiated reports of outbreaks in Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Great Britain.

2018/07/08 – Amateur Operator picked up information relayed by WPA ARES net for an additional resource request of (10) isolation kits and (3) additional biologic decontamination units to be dispatched from the State public health HQ to the University Hospital campus asap. Local news reports out of the Pittsburgh area have stated that an exclusion zone has been set up around the University Hospital in the downtown area and all non police and emergency vehicle traffic is being diverted. An eyewitnesses states that there are multiple arrivals of medivac helicopters.

2018/07/14 – Officials from the CDC, DHS, HHS and FEMA issued the following statement: "Our research has concluded that we are entering the 90 - 100 day window where symptoms of disease X, a prion based disease, may be dramatically expanding based on extrapolation from the number of initial cases seen in April and May. In fact, we are seeing an increasing number of cases nationwide bearing this out. With this in mind we have issued the following directives:



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1. Do not travel beyond your local community and do so only when absolutely necessary. TSA, FEMA and members of the Natl Guard are conducting screenings at all transportation hubs and airports. Be advised if you have to travel, expect long waits and mandatory screening.
2. Avoid large gatherings such as sporting events, concerts and malls.
3. If you have symptoms, DO NOT go to the hospital, physicians office or ER. Call you local public health department and report your symptoms to them. Follow their instructions. The CDC, USAMRIID and researchers are working tirelessly to contain this disease and put mitigation measures in place. Please remain calm and follow the instructions of government officials. Information is being disseminated to local health officials now."

2018/07/16 – Federal authorities have reportedly destroyed the entire livestock herds of several ranches in North Central NE, including the Sandhill, Spade, Krebs, Nolles and Haythorn cattle ranches. This represents the destruction of over 500,000 cattle.

Several alternative media sights are reporting that due to the supply shortages, many Sams Club, Costco, Kroger and Safeway store in IL, MO, MN, NE, AR, LA, CO and UT are limiting quantities of beef, poultry, and pork that can be purchased in a single order. Corporate representatives for these chains deny any knowledge of supply problems and are unaware of any stores instituting transaction limits.

**Substantiation:**

--Not Detailed at This Time--

**Scope / Context:**

Disease X was initially detected in a localized area. However, in a very short period of time (approximately 12 weeks), the effects are being reported on an international level.

Disease X was initially detected in wildlife. However, in a very short period of time (approximately 10 weeks), it has spread to domestic livestock and then to the human population on multiple continents.



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## **Outlook:**

### *Factors:*

Based on how fast Disease X has migrated from wildlife to domestic livestock to the human population, we would expect the spread of the disease to continue at alarming/uncontrolled rates, both in animals and humans.

### *Food/meat shortages:*

Short Term- Immediately, we will likely see food shortages due to unavailable beef, pork, and poultry products. Food shortages are expected to result in violence (both in civil unrest as well as stealing food from any supplies that are in existence).

Long Term-This shortage will only continue and worsen with the continued (and necessary) destruction of current beef, pork and poultry populations. The shortage will be long-lived as it will take time to arrest the spread of the disease and even longer to grow remaining populations of domestic livestock to numbers that will again allow for slaughter and consumption.

### *Population Impact:*

Based on an assumed spread of Disease X in humans similar to that experienced in wildlife and domestic livestock, we expect to see a large loss of life in the human population as well. This will lead to shortages of doctors, nurses, and first-responders that will have immediate impacts to society. Large loss of lives will begin to affect utilities as well as supply chains in a short period of time. Following supply chain shortages, the industrial and production industries will begin to suffer from shortages of workers as well as shortages of raw materials.

## **Sources:**

--None Provided--

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