

UNIDENTIFIED RESIDENT, **RARE N.Y. CASE LINKED IN** **NEW AIDS STRAIN**

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Note from pastor Kevin Lea:

The history of the AIDS epidemic is a testimony to the foolishness of man, and to the truthfulness of the Holy Scriptures. God told Moses to promise the people that if they followed His laws pertaining to sexual relationships, then the people would live in peace, prosperity and health. But if they turned away from His law, and pursued unnatural lusts, men with men, women with women, and worse, then the diseases of the Egyptians would come upon them and destroy them.

When AIDS first afflicted our nation, there was a massive effort in government and the media to protect the sin, silence the warnings from God's Word, and look to modern medicine for a removal of the curse. Medicine has been partially successful in their quest. For about \$30,000 worth of medications per year, per AIDS patient, our tax dollars have been able to extend the life of HIV positive people an additional 10-20 years. With demented glee the homosexual community has shaken their fist at God, feeling they had won their battle against Him with their drug cocktails (even though their average life spans continue to be drastically shortened).

Now America is getting another warning shot across the bow. What are we going to do? Will we repent and turn back to the Bible? I pray we will but fear we won't. God's Word is very clear what will happen if we continue to travel down the road the Egyptians and Canaanites of Moses' day took.

Deut 28:58 "If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, 59 "then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues-- great and prolonged plagues-- and

serious and prolonged sicknesses. 60 "Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. 61 "Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, will the LORD bring upon you **until you are destroyed.** (NKJ)

An unidentified San Diego resident may be infected with the same rare, aggressive and highly drug-resistant strain of HIV found last week in a New York City man who has rapidly become ill with AIDS, health officials said yesterday. "(The local person's) HIV has a similar molecular makeup as the patient in New York City," said Dr. Nancy Bowen, the San Diego County public health officer who held a press conference about the finding yesterday afternoon in San Diego.

It's important to notify the public about a new and possibly supervigorous strain of HIV so people can take extra precautions, Bowen said. But "I don't think it will do anybody any good to get panicked about this," she said, emphasizing that many details are still being sorted out.

Several AIDS specialists said it was odd to see public-health officials sound such widespread alarm after only one person became sick. They questioned whether the virus is truly a lethal variety, or whether the New York patient's immune system, extensive use of methamphetamines and genetic makeup might be contributing factors to his rapidly deteriorating condition.

But public health agencies and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the announcement was necessary because they haven't seen an HIV strain that becomes drug-resistant and progresses to AIDS so quickly, as in the case of the New York man.

Bowen urged people who think they might be infected with HIV to get tested. If infection is confirmed, the individuals should visit a doctor and request a second blood test to determine what genetic strain of the virus they might have. The AIDS virus mutates regularly, changing its molecular structure over time, so blood testing is normally done to make sure each patient's genetic strain is vulnerable to anti-viral drugs being prescribed. If the strain isn't vulnerable, doctors must find other medications.

Bowen said the San Diego resident tested positive for the rare HIV strain last fall – after the patient's health provider sent a sample of his or her blood to ViroLogic, an HIV typing reference laboratory in Northern California. There was no alarm until the New York City man recently became ill and was found to have a molecular strain resistant to virtually all anti-viral drugs. His case prompted public health officials nationwide to check with the

reference lab for a similar strain among other HIV patients.

The reference lab's database then linked the New York strain to that of the San Diego person and an unidentified New York City resident. Researchers don't know yet whether the New York and San Diego strains are an exact match, Bowen said. They also haven't determined if the three individuals know one another. It will take at least a week to decide if the HIV strains are identical, said Dr. David Ho, director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in Manhattan.

Federal and California health officials are trying to locate the San Diego resident through the reference laboratory, find his or her doctor and ultimately get in touch with the infected person. They want to see if this individual is ill, to conduct further testing and to notify sexual partners who may be at risk of contracting HIV.

If the person was tested under anonymous conditions, in which a name is not given, it could be impossible to locate his or her whereabouts. The patient also may have moved away from San Diego or died.

Health officials said the New York patient reportedly had unsafe anal sex with hundreds of partners while taking crystal methamphetamine. The drug's stimulating effect and erasure of inhibitions contribute to sex marathons that have increased the spread of HIV, they explained.

Medical investigators believe that the New York patient found some of his partners on an Internet Web site. They are working with men who used the site to reach as many people as possible who might have been infected or are worried about the risk.

Yesterday, Bowen reissued precautions for drug users, urging them to not share needles or syringes. She also urged sexually active individuals to abstain from intercourse or to commit to a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has tested HIV-negative. Correct and consistent use of a condom can reduce the risk of spreading sexually transmitted diseases, she added.

Bowen said she hopes the finding will prompt "people who are not sure of their (HIV) status but who are at risk to decide that they want to find out. That's one of our main messages."

In the past three or four years, about 400 San Diego County residents each year have been diagnosed with AIDS. In January, four new patients were diagnosed, bringing the total number of county residents diagnosed with AIDS since 1981 to 12,237. Of those, 54 percent have died.

The following quote is taken from a web page that was found by typing "homosexual life span" into a google search.

http://theroadtoemmaus.org/RdLb/22SxSo/PnSx/HSx/hosx_lifspn.htm

Study after study reveals that homosexuality, whether male or female, can take anywhere from 10, 20 to 30 years off of someone's lifespan. With all the attention on smoking, which the National Cancer Institute says takes from 7 to 10 years off someone's life, why not the same human outcry on homosexuality? Here's a behavior that's killing people 2 to 3 times the rate of smoking, yet nobody seems to care. In fact, we are encouraging and affirming individuals into the "gay" lifestyle. If you truly love someone, you would steer them away from self-destructive behaviors, rather than towards them, shouldn't you? Homosexuals need our tough love, not blind love, the kind of love that is going to love them no matter what they say and do. We must extend that helping hand and say " I think your worth saving, let's work on it together."