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Level 3 – 8th October 2026

Death of worker at plague lab raises concerns

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

The USA has raised concerns after a worker at a plague research laboratory in Siberia died. Some newspapers suspect that she died after coming into contact with plague bacteria. The 28-year-old worker died after developing severe pneumonia. Local reports say she may have broken a test tube containing plague bacteria. Dozens of hospital workers have been quarantined. Officials are monitoring people who were in contact with the woman who died. Russia has said the woman's death was from "pneumonia of an unknown origin" and not plague. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there was no "cause for alarm". He said officials should "keep an eye on it".

Pneumonic plague can be deadly. It attacks the lungs and can cause death 18 to 24 hours after symptoms begin. It is highly contagious, so it can spread quickly. It can move from person to person through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The disease can be treated with antibiotics. However, antibiotics work best when they are given as soon as symptoms appear. Pneumonic plague is different from COVID-19, which is caused by a virus and not a bacterium. COVID-19 spreads much more easily around the world than plague. Microbiologist Dr Simon Clarke told the BBC: "Pneumonic plague can spread from person to person, and that is why there is the concern around this."

Sources: <https://www.dw.com/en/suspected-pneumonic-plague-in-siberia-what-we-know-about-the-disease/a-79547919>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cv5yn3nwp5n5o>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/russia-plague-outbreak-siberia-lab-leak-trump-rubio-b3061858.html>

WARM-UPS

1. BACTERIA: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about bacteria. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

raising concerns / plague / laboratory / bacteria / pneumonia / cause for alarm / lungs / symptoms / contagious / coughs / sneezes / antibiotics / COVID-19 / virus

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. DEADLY BACTERIA: Students A **strongly** believe all laboratories should kill the deadly bacteria they have; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. DANGEROUS BACTERIA: What do you know about these bacteria? What do you want to know? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Want to Know
Plague		
Cholera		
Tuberculosis		
Pneumonia		
Tetanus		
Meningitis		

5. LABORATORY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "laboratory". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. HARMFUL THINGS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most harmful things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Bacteria
- Poisons
- Radiation
- Animals
- Chemicals
- Natural disasters
- Climate change
- AI

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. raised | a. A reason to be worried. |
| 2. concerns | b. A place where scientists do tests and research. |
| 3. laboratory | c. Very serious or dangerous. |
| 4. suspect | d. Caused to occur or to be thought about. |
| 5. severe | e. A serious illness that affects the lungs. |
| 6. pneumonia | f. Worries about something bad happening. |
| 7. cause for alarm | g. Think that something is probably true. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. deadly | h. Able to pass from one person to another. |
| 9. lungs | i. Move from one person or place to another. |
| 10. symptoms | j. Medicines that kill bacteria and treat some infections. |
| 11. contagious | k. The organs in your body that you use to breathe. |
| 12. spread | l. Having a disease or illness. |
| 13. infected | m. Signs that you are ill or have a disease. |
| 14. antibiotics | n. Able to cause death. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. A woman died in an accident in her house in Siberia. **T / F**
2. The article says the woman who died cut her finger on a test tube. **T / F**
3. Russia said it is not sure where the pneumonia is from. **T / F**
4. The US secretary of state is worried about eye damage from the plague. **T / F**
5. Pneumonic plague can kill 18 hours after symptoms begin. **T / F**
6. Pneumonic plague only spreads through touching other people. **T / F**
7. Antibiotics can treat the plague if they are used quickly. **T / F**
8. A microbiologist said the plague spreads faster than COVID-19. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. concerns | a. cured |
| 2. suspect | b. very bad |
| 3. severe | c. fear |
| 4. origin | d. catching |
| 5. alarm | e. pass on |
| 6. deadly | f. worries |
| 7. contagious | g. source |
| 8. treated | h. signs |
| 9. symptoms | i. think |
| 10. spread | j. lethal |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The USA has raised | a. have been quarantined |
| 2. she died after coming into contact | b. not a bacterium |
| 3. she may have broken a test | c. concerns |
| 4. Dozens of hospital workers | d. or sneezes |
| 5. officials should keep an | e. death 18 to 24 hours |
| 6. It attacks the lungs and can cause | f. with plague bacteria |
| 7. It is highly | g. eye on it |
| 8. when an infected person coughs | h. around this |
| 9. caused by a virus and | i. tube |
| 10. that is why there is the concern | j. contagious |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

The USA has (1) _____ concerns after a worker at a plague research laboratory in Siberia died. Some newspapers (2) _____ that she died after coming into contact with plague bacteria. The 28-year-old worker died after developing (3) _____ pneumonia. Local reports say she may have broken a (4) _____ tube containing plague bacteria. Dozens of hospital workers have been quarantined. Officials are monitoring people who were in (5) _____ with the woman who died. Russia has said the woman's death was from "pneumonia of an (6) _____ origin" and not plague. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there was no "cause for (7) _____". He said officials should "keep an (8) _____ on it".

severe
alarm
raised
unknown
test
eye
suspect
contact

Pneumonic plague can be deadly. It attacks the (9) _____ and can cause death 18 to 24 hours after symptoms begin. It is (10) _____ contagious, so it can spread quickly. It can move from person to person through the (11) _____ when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The disease can be treated with (12) _____. However, antibiotics work best when they are given as soon as (13) _____ appear. Pneumonic plague is different from COVID-19, which is caused by a (14) _____ and not a bacterium. COVID-19 spreads much more easily around the world than plague. Microbiologist Dr Simon Clarke told the BBC: "Pneumonic plague can (15) _____ from person to person, and that is why there is the concern (16) _____ this."

virus
antibiotics
highly
spread
lungs
around
air
symptoms

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

- 1) The USA has raised concerns after a worker at a _____
 - a. plague research lavatory
 - b. plague research laboratory
 - c. plague research labour tree
 - d. plague research Labour and Tory
- 2) newspapers suspect that she died after coming into contact _____
 - a. with plague bacteria
 - b. with plague bacterial
 - c. with plague bacteria
 - d. within plague bacteria
- 3) The 28-year-old worker died after _____
 - a. develop in severe pneumonia
 - b. developing severe pneumonia
 - c. developing several pneumonia
 - d. developing sever pneumonia
- 4) Russia has said the woman's death was from pneumonia of _____
 - a. an unknown origin
 - b. an unknown original
 - c. an unknown origins
 - d. an unknown originate
- 5) US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there was no _____
 - a. cause four alarm
 - b. cause fore alarm
 - c. cause forearm
 - d. cause for alarm
- 6) It attacks the lungs and can cause death 18 to 24 hours _____
 - a. after symptom begin
 - b. after symptoms begin
 - c. after symptoms begins
 - d. after symptom begins
- 7) it can spread quickly. It can move from person to person _____
 - a. thoroughly the air
 - b. though the air
 - c. through the air
 - d. thorough the air
- 8) antibiotics work best when they are given as soon _____
 - a. as symptoms a pear
 - b. as symptoms ape pear
 - c. as symptoms a pear
 - d. as symptoms appear
- 9) COVID-19 spreads much more easily around the _____
 - a. world than plague
 - b. world that plague
 - c. world than plague
 - d. worlds than plague
- 10) spread from person to person, and that is why there is the _____
 - a. concerns around this
 - b. concern around this
 - c. concern around these
 - d. concern about this

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

The USA has (1) _____ a worker at a plague research laboratory in Siberia died. Some newspapers (2) _____ died after coming into contact with plague bacteria. The 28-year-old worker died after developing severe pneumonia. Local reports say she may have broken (3) _____ containing plague bacteria. Dozens of hospital workers have been quarantined. Officials (4) _____ who were in contact with the woman who died. Russia has said the woman's death was from "pneumonia of (5) _____" and not plague. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there was no "cause for alarm". He said officials should "keep (6) _____ it".

Pneumonic plague can be deadly. It attacks (7) _____ can cause death 18 to 24 hours after symptoms begin. It is highly contagious, so (8) _____ quickly. It can move from person to person through the air when an infected person (9) _____. The disease can be treated with antibiotics. However, antibiotics work best when they are given as (10) _____ appear. Pneumonic plague is different from COVID-19, which is caused by a virus and not a bacterium. COVID-19 (11) _____ easily around the world than plague. Microbiologist Dr Simon Clarke told the BBC: "Pneumonic plague can spread from person to person, and that is why there is the (12) _____."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

1. Who has raised concerns over the death of a lab worker?
2. How old was the worker?
3. What might the lab worker have broken?
4. What has happened to dozens of hospital workers?
5. What did the US secretary of state say there was no cause for?
6. How long after symptoms arise can the plague kill people?
7. How does the plague spread?
8. What can treat the plague?
9. What does the article say the plague is different from?
10. Who is Simon Clarke?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

- 1) Who has raised concerns over the death of a lab worker?
 - a) the UK
 - b) the WHO
 - c) the US
 - d) the KGB
- 2) How old was the worker?
 - a) 28
 - b) 27
 - c) 26
 - d) 25
- 3) What might the lab worker have broken?
 - a) the rules
 - b) trust
 - c) her hand
 - d) a test tube
- 4) What has happened to dozens of hospital workers?
 - a) They have been tested.
 - b) They have been quarantined.
 - c) They have been moved.
 - d) They have been vaccinated.
- 5) What did the US secretary of state say there was no cause for?
 - a) an inquiry
 - b) panic
 - c) alarm
 - d) lockdowns
- 6) How long after symptoms arise can the plague kill people?
 - a) 6 to 12 hours
 - b) 12 to 18 hours
 - c) 24 to 36 hours
 - d) 18 to 24 hours
- 7) How does the plague spread?
 - a) through food
 - b) through the air
 - c) via surfaces
 - d) body contact
- 8) What can treat the plague?
 - a) sleep and rest
 - b) a vaccine
 - c) vitamin C
 - d) antibiotics
- 9) What does the article say the plague is different from?
 - a) COVID-19
 - b) influenza
 - c) the bubonic plague
 - d) bronchitis
- 10) Who is Simon Clarke?
 - a) an expert on viruses
 - b) a vaccine maker
 - c) the woman's husband
 - d) a microbiologist

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

Role A – Bacteria

You think bacteria are the most harmful things for humans. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): animals, natural disasters or AI.

Role B – Animals

You think animals are the most harmful things for humans. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): bacteria, natural disasters or AI.

Role C – Natural Disasters

You think natural disasters are the most harmful things for humans. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): animals, bacteria or AI.

Role D – AI

You think AI is the most harmful thing for humans. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): animals, natural disasters or bacteria.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'plague' and 'bacteria'.

plague	bacteria

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

• raised • suspect • severe • test • origin • alarm	• attacks • highly • air • treated • easily • microbiologist
---	--

BACTERIA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bacteria in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

BACTERIA DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'plague'?
3. What do you know about this story?
4. How worried are you about this story?
5. What do you know about the plague?
6. Would you work with dangerous bacteria?
7. What do you know about pneumonia?
8. Do you think this news is cause for alarm?
9. How strictly should officials keep an eye on this case?
10. Do you worry about bacteria being used by terrorists?

Death of worker at plague lab raises concerns – 8th October 2026
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BACTERIA DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'bacteria'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How scary does pneumonic plague sound?
15. What do you remember about COVID-19?
16. What are the differences between bacteria and viruses?
17. What would you do if there was another pandemic?
18. Do you think there will be another pandemic?
19. What three adjectives best describe this story?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

The USA has (1) _____ concerns after a worker at a plague research laboratory in Siberia died. Some newspapers suspect (2) _____ she died after coming into contact with plague bacteria. The 28-year-old worker died after developing (3) _____ pneumonia. Local reports say she may have broken a test (4) _____ containing plague bacteria. Dozens of hospital workers have been quarantined. Officials are monitoring people who were (5) _____ contact with the woman who died. Russia has said the woman's death was from "pneumonia of an unknown origin" and not plague. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there was no "cause (6) _____ alarm". He said officials should "keep an eye on it".

Pneumonic plague can be deadly. It attacks the lungs and can (7) _____ death 18 to 24 hours after symptoms begin. It is (8) _____ contagious, so it can spread quickly. It can move from person to person through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The disease can (9) _____ treated with antibiotics. However, antibiotics work best when they are given as soon as symptoms appear. Pneumonic plague is different from COVID-19, which is caused (10) _____ a virus and not a bacterium. COVID-19 spreads much more (11) _____ around the world than plague. Microbiologist Dr Simon Clarke told the BBC: "Pneumonic plague can spread from person (12) _____ person, and that is why there is the concern around this."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) rose | (b) raised | (c) arisen | (d) rise |
| 2. | (a) what | (b) that | (c) which | (d) such |
| 3. | (a) sieve | (b) several | (c) sever | (d) severe |
| 4. | (a) hose | (b) tube | (c) pipe | (d) gutter |
| 5. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) on | (d) by |
| 6. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) for | (d) as |
| 7. | (a) caused | (b) causing | (c) cause | (d) causes |
| 8. | (a) high | (b) height | (c) highly | (d) highs |
| 9. | (a) do | (b) be | (c) have | (d) take |
| 10. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) at | (d) on |
| 11. | (a) easily | (b) easier | (c) easy | (d) easiest |
| 12. | (a) by | (b) in | (c) to | (d) on |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

Paragraph 1

1. a worker at a plague research yrtalarobo
2. newspapers tuscpe that she died
3. after developing veeres pneumonia
4. people who were in aoccttn with the woman
5. there was no cause for almar
6. caliisfof should keep an eye on it

Paragraph 2

7. Pneumonic plague can be aledyd
8. It attacks the nusgl
9. 24 hours after omsytspm begin
10. an infected person oschgu or sneezes
11. caused by a rsuiv
12. COVID-19 arsepds much more easily

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () after symptoms begin. It is highly contagious, so it can spread quickly. It can move from person to
- () alarm". He said officials should "keep an eye on it".
- () antibiotics. However, antibiotics work best when they are given as soon as symptoms appear. Pneumonic plague is
- () different from COVID-19, which is caused by a virus and not a bacterium. COVID-19 spreads much
- () more easily around the world than plague. Microbiologist Dr Simon Clarke told the BBC: "Pneumonic plague can
- () origin" and not plague. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there was no "cause for
- () person through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The disease can be treated with
- () pneumonia. Local reports say she may have broken a test tube containing plague bacteria. Dozens of hospital
- () Pneumonic plague can be deadly. It attacks the lungs and can cause death 18 to 24 hours
- () spread from person to person, and that is why there is the concern around this."
- () that she died after coming into contact with plague bacteria. The 28-year-old worker died after developing severe
- (**1**) The USA has raised concerns after a worker at a plague research laboratory in Siberia died. Some newspapers suspect
- () with the woman who died. Russia has said the woman's death was from "pneumonia of an unknown
- () workers have been quarantined. Officials are monitoring people who were in contact

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

1. A a at laboratory plague research worker .
2. after coming died into plague She contact with .
3. a broken have may She test tube .
4. Dozens have hospital of quarantined been workers .
5. an eye it Officials on should keep .
6. 24 after begin Cause death hours symptoms .
7. can from It move person to person .
8. antibiotics be can disease treated The with .
9. are as given soon symptoms They as appear .
10. concern is That there the why is .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

The USA has *raised / rose* concerns after a worker at a plague research laboratory in Siberia died. Some newspapers suspect that she died after coming *into / onto* contact with plague bacteria. The 28-year-old worker died after *development / developing* severe pneumonia. Local reports say she may have broken *a / the* test tube containing plague bacteria. Dozens of hospital workers have been *quarantined / quarantine*. Officials are monitoring people *who / whose* were in contact with the woman who *dead / died*. Russia has said the woman's death was from "pneumonia of an unknown *original / origin*" and not plague. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there was no "*cause / causes* for alarm". He said officials should "keep an *arm / eye* on it".

Pneumonic plague can be deadly. It attacks the lungs and can cause *dead / death* 18 to 24 hours after *symptoms / symptom* begin. It is *high / highly* contagious, so it can spread *quickly / quick*. It can move from person to person through the air when an infected person *coughing / coughs* or sneezes. The disease can *be / do* treated with antibiotics. However, antibiotics work best when they are given as soon *was / as* symptoms appear. Pneumonic plague is different from COVID-19, which is caused by a virus and *that / not* a bacterium. COVID-19 spreads much more easily around *a / the* world than plague. Microbiologist Dr Simon Clarke told the BBC: "Pneumonic plague can spread from person to person, and that is why there is the concern *above / around* this."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plaque.html>

Th_ _S_ h_s r__s_d c_nc_rns _ft_r _ w_rk_r _t _
pl_g__ r_s__rch l_b_r_t_ry _n S_b_r__ d__d. S_m_
n_wsp_p_rs s_sp_ct th_t sh_ d__d _ft_r c_m_ng _nt_
c_nt_ct w_th pl_g__ b_ct_r___. Th_ 28-y__r-_ld w_rk_r
d__d _ft_r d_v_l_p_ng s_v_r_ pn__m_n___. L_c_l r_p_rts
s_y sh_ m_y h_v_ br_k_n _ t_st t_b_ c_nt__n_ng
pl_g__ b_ct_r___. D_z_ns _f h_sp_t_l w_rk_rs h_v_ b__n
q__r_nt_n_d. _ff_c__ls _r_ m_n_t_r_ng p__pl_ wh_ w_r_
_n c_nt_ct w_th th_ w_m_n wh_ d__d. R_ss__ h_s
s__d th_ w_m_n's d__th w_s fr_m "pn__m_n__ _f _n
_nkn_wn _r_g_n" _nd n_t pl_g__. _S S_cr_t_ry _f
St_t_ M_rc_ R_b__ s__d th_r_ w_s n_ "c__s_ fr
_l_rm". H_ s__d _ff_c__ls sh__ld "k__p _n _y_ _n _t".

Pn__m_n_c pl_g__ c_n b_ d__dly. _t _tt_cks th_ l_ngs
_nd c_n c__s_ d__th 18 t_ 24 h__rs _ft_r sympt_ms
b_g_n. _t _s h_g_hly c_nt_g__s, s_ _t c_n spr__d
q__ckly. _t c_n m_v_ fr_m p_rs_n t_ p_rs_n thr__gh
th_ __r wh_n _n _nf_ct_d p_rs_n c__ghs _r sn__z_s.
Th_ d_s__s_ c_n b_ tr__t_d w_th _nt_b__t_cs.
H_w_v_r, _nt_b__t_cs w_rk b_st wh_n th_y _r_ g_v_n
_s s__n _s sympt_ms _pp__r. Pn__m_n_c pl_g__ _s
d_ff_r_nt fr_m C_V_D-19, wh_ch _s c__s_d by _ v_r_s
_nd n_t _ b_ct_r__m. C_V_D-19 spr__ds m_ch m_r_
__s_ly _r__nd th_ w_rld th_n pl_g__. M_cr_b__l_g_st
Dr S_m_n Cl_rk_ t_ld th_ BBC: "Pn__m_n_c pl_g__ c_n
spr__d fr_m p_rs_n t_ p_rs_n, _nd th_t _s why th_r_
s th c_nc_rn _r__nd th_s."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

the usa has raised concerns after a worker at a plague research laboratory in siberia died some newspapers suspect that she died after coming into contact with plague bacteria the 28yearold worker died after developing severe pneumonia local reports say she may have broken a test tube containing plague bacteria dozens of hospital workers have been quarantined officials are monitoring people who were in contact with the woman who died russia has said the womans death was from pneumonia of an unknown origin and not plague us secretary of state marco rubio said there was no cause for alarm he said officials should keep an eye on it

pneumonic plague can be deadly it attacks the lungs and can cause death 18 to 24 hours after symptoms begin it is highly contagious so it can spread quickly it can move from person to person through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes the disease can be treated with antibiotics however antibiotics work best when they are given as soon as symptoms appear pneumonic plague is different from covid19 which is caused by a virus and not a bacterium covid19 spreads much more easily around the world than plague microbiologist dr simon clarke told the bbc pneumonic plague can spread from person to person and that is why there is the concern around this

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

The USA has raised concerns after a worker at a plague research laboratory in Siberia died. Some newspapers suspect that she died after coming in to contact with plague bacteria. The 28-year-old worker died after developing severe pneumonia. Local reports say she may have broken a test tube containing plague bacteria. Dozens of hospital workers have been quarantined. Officials are monitoring people who were in contact with the woman who died. Russia has said the woman's death was from "pneumonia of an unknown origin" and not plague. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there was no "cause for alarm". He said officials should "keep an eye on it". Pneumonic plague can be deadly. It attacks the lungs and can cause death 18 to 24 hours after symptoms begin. It is highly contagious, so it can spread quickly. It can move from person to person through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The disease can be treated with antibiotics. However, antibiotics work best when they are given as soon as symptoms appear. Pneumonic plague is different from COVID-19, which is caused by a virus and not a bacterium. COVID-19 spreads much more easily around the world than plague. Microbiologist Dr Simon Clark told the BBC: "Pneumonic plague can spread from person to person, and that is why there is the concern around this."

FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

Write about **bacteria** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261008-suspected-pneumonic-plague.html>

We should kill all harmful bacteria kept in laboratories. Discuss.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small gaps between them. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PNEUMONIA: Make a poster about pneumonia. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. HARMFUL BACTERIA: Write a magazine article about all laboratories killing all the harmful bacteria they have. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on pneumonia. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to stop a pneumonia outbreak. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. f 3. b 4. g 5. c 6. e 7. a
8. n 9. k 10. m 11. h 12. i 13. l 14. j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 T 6 F 7 T 8 F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. g	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. a	9. h	10. e

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. The US
2. 28
3. A test tube
4. They have been quarantined.
5. Alarm
6. 18 to 24 hours
7. Through the air
8. Antibiotics
9. COVID-19
10. A microbiologist

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. A worker at a plague research laboratory.
2. She died after coming into contact with plague.
3. She may have broken a test tube.
4. Dozens of hospital workers have been quarantined.
5. Officials should keep an eye on it.
6. Cause death 24 hours after symptoms begin.
7. It can move from person to person.
8. The disease can be treated with antibiotics.
9. They are given as soon as symptoms appear.
10. That is why there is the concern.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)