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MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ENERGY
Ministerial Building
Kingstown
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Tel No: 784-457-2586
Email: mohesvg@gmail.com/mohesvg@gov.vc
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PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: St. Vincent and the Grenadines Remains Low Risk for the Nipah Virus

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environmental Health and Energy is closely monitoring reports of Nipah Virus cases identified in other countries. Nipah Virus is a zoonotic virus spread from animals to humans. The natural host of the virus is fruit bats (also known as flying foxes).

Transmission may occur through:

1. Direct contact with infected animals
2. Consumption of food contaminated by infected bats
3. Close contact with an infected person.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe and may include:

1. Fever
2. Headache
3. Respiratory symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing)
4. Vomiting
5. Drowsiness or confusion

In some cases, the virus can lead to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and severe respiratory illness.

According to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the region including St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) currently remains classified as low risk for Nipah Virus (NiV). At this time, there are no confirmed or suspected cases in SVG. While the national risk remains low, the Ministry is maintaining surveillance and preparedness measures in collaboration with regional and international partners.

The Ministry further advises that travelers (returning or visiting) take extra caution especially if they are visiting or returning from affected countries. If you develop symptoms such as fever, respiratory symptoms, or neurological signs, you should seek medical attention promptly and inform your healthcare provider of your travel history.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environmental Health and Energy will continue to provide updates as necessary and remain committed to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our people.