

Neurological disease in New Brunswick



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND



CVVER coffee social. March 29, 2021

Outline



1. News reporting
2. What we know
3. What we don't know
4. What might we be dealing with

News reporting

New Brunswick

New Brunswick monitoring more than 40 cases of unknown neurological disease

March 17, 2021

New Brunswick

How researchers are tracking down N.B.'s mystery neurological disease

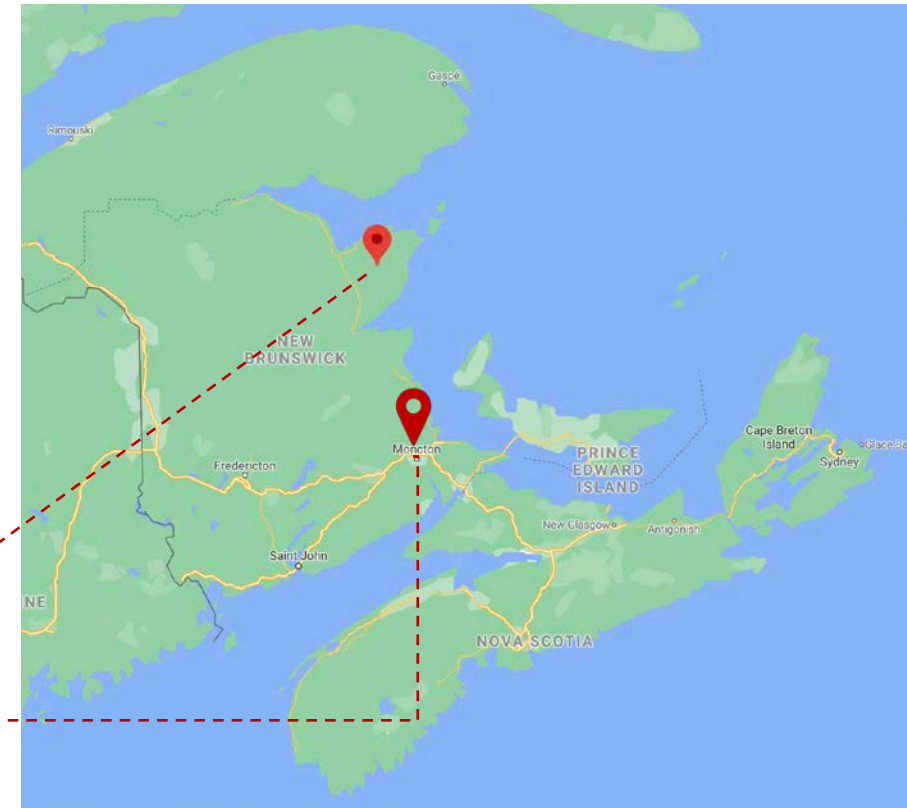
ATLANTIC | News

Researcher says brain disorder in N.B. may be linked to environmental exposure

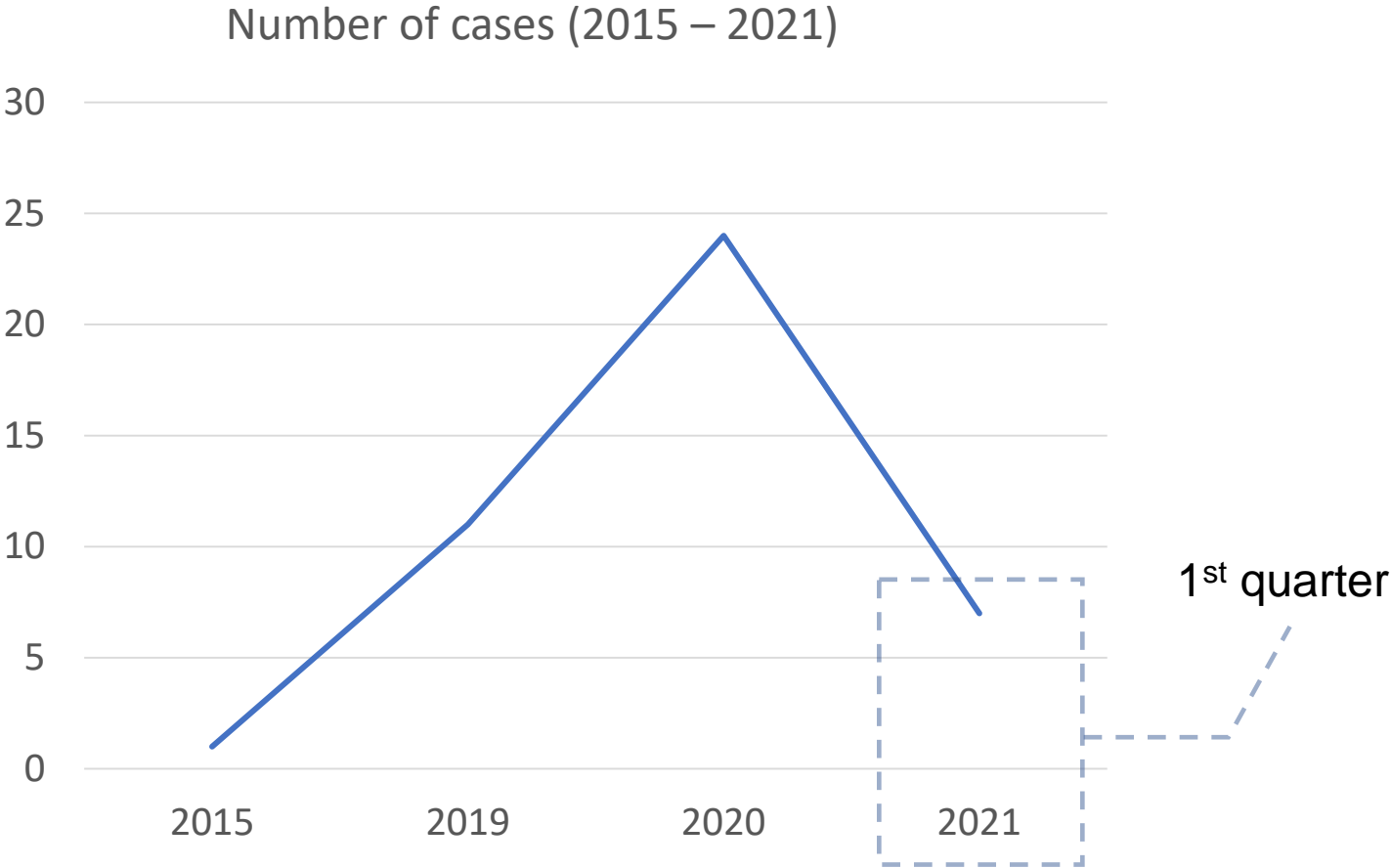
Canadians Investigating Outbreak of Mysterious Creutzfeldt-Jakob Lookalike

What we know

- Case definition: 43 cases to date, all age groups, males & females equally affected
- Symptoms: progressive wasting neurological condition
- Prognosis: poor.
 - No treatment available
 - Death registered in 5 cases so far
- Spatial distribution – limited to:
 - NE New Brunswick: Acadian Peninsula; 35 cases
 - SE New Brunswick: Moncton; 8 cases




What we know



What we don't know

- Unknown etiology
- Unknown epidemiology
- Cause of spatial clustering
- Factors associated with exposure
 - Other (animal) hosts?
 - Environmental exposure?
 - Contaminated food/ water?
- **Ultimately**, factors in common



Limited information...
How can we prevent it?

What might we be dealing with

- Unknown etiology...
 - Entirely new neurological disease?
 - New prion disease?
 - Toxin?
- (Nonspecific) symptoms similar to those of [Creutzfeldt-Jakob](#) disease (CJD)
- Available tests have so far ruled out known prion diseases

References

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/brain-disease-cases-public-health-1.5953478>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/nb-mystery-neurological-disease-coulthart-1.5960225>

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/researcher-says-brain-disorder-in-n-b-may-be-linked-to-environmental-exposure-1.5363850>

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/948101>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7707318/questions-answers-new-brunswick-top-doctor-mysterious-brain-disease/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/creutzfeldt-jakob-disease-moncton-hospital-1.5452483>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/surveillance/blood-safety-contribution-program/creutzfeldt-jakob-disease/cjd-surveillance-system.html>