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Dozens more monkeys to be killed

Health officials stress humans are not in danger of the ebola virus

ALICE, Texas (AP) — A third monkey diagnosed with Ebola and 47 others were being put to death Wednesday at a primate center where the virus already claimed two animals.

Health officials, however, continued to emphasize the virus poses no threat to humans.

"The public has never been in danger and still isn't," said state Health Commissioner Dr. David Smith.

President Clinton, speaking at a news conference in Tokyo, said he had been briefed on the situation and there was no cause for concern.

"There is no substantial threat to the general population of the people there or the people of the United States generally," Clinton said. "I would urge people not to overreact to this."

All 50 monkeys had been under quarantine in the same room

at the Texas Primate Center. The facility, 15 miles southeast of Alice, breeds primates for medical research.

Initial test results indicate a fourth monkey may also have the virus, said Dr. Peter Jahrling of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Fort Detrick, Md.

Jahrling first identified this strain of Ebola when it struck a Reston, Va., monkey facility in 1989.

The fourth monkey is confined to a separate room with 49 other primates, meaning all of those animals may also be killed, Jahrling said.

"I truly believe this monkey is infected. If we can confirm that, the corporate decision's going to be to take out that room, too," he said.

All 100 primates arrived at the center March 21 from the

Philippines and were placed under a mandatory 31-day quarantine, center officials said.

The first infected monkey died March 30. A second was put to death a few days later after showing signs of fever and loss of appetite. The third monkey was diagnosed late Tuesday.

tute for testing, Jahrling said. Additional samples were expected Wednesday.

The virus is almost exactly like the Ebola strain that struck the Reston center, according to experts. Four people there were exposed to the infection but never got sick. All the monkeys were put to death.

"There is no substantial threat to the general population ... I would urge people not to overreact to this."

— PRESIDENT CLINTON

State health officials and experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention converged at the center this week to examine the primates.

Blood samples from 11 monkeys, including the three diagnosed with Ebola, were forwarded to the Army research insti-

At the Texas center, eight employees came in contact with the infected monkeys but have shown no signs of illness, officials said.

They remain under observation. In different strains, Ebola is one of the world's deadliest diseases.

Teacher charged with molesting 5 students

Bayardo Arellano is on paid leave and could be fired pending a grand jury hearing

DALLAS (AP) — A school teacher has been charged with molesting five second-grade girls in his classroom, sometimes in front of other students, police said.

Bayardo Arellano, 35, was put on paid leave pending a grand jury hearing and could be fired if indicted, school officials said.

He was jailed today with bail set at \$100,000.

The second-year teacher declined comment. His attorney, Tom Lochry, denied any wrongdoing by his client, who was arrested Tuesday.

"He's confident that the truth will come out and he'll be vindicated," Lochry said. "We don't have any idea where these complaints are coming from. This highly recruited professional is about to have his career trashed."

The allegations date back to August. They surfaced last week after one of Arellano's students seemed reluctant to go to school, telling her parents that her teacher

had been touching her buttocks and genital area on top of her clothing, police said.

According to police reports, four of the girls were fondled outside their clothing. Another girl told police that Arellano unzipped his pants, grabbed her hand and made her squeeze his penis.

Three of the fondling incidents happened last week, police reports state. Two of the children told police they had been fondled as far back as January, and another said the abuse began in August.

Police said that all the incidents happened on the campus of Harrell Budd Elementary School during school hours. Some occurred in front of other students, officers said.

"Something like this really scares you," said parent Jose Luis Gonzalez. "You can warn your kids not to talk to strangers, but when it's the teacher who is doing wrong, what do you tell them?"

Maria Marquez, whose son is in Arellano's class, said Arellano has been a nice teacher.

"I've never seen him do anything bad," she said.

Beatrice Villigran, president of the Budd Elementary PTA, said several parents had already told her they didn't like Arellano.

"They said that their daughters had complained to them that he would ask for massages from them, and that he would get mad if they wouldn't give him a massage," she said.

Arellano joined the Dallas school district in 1994, after a 12-year stint in the U.S. Army, according to his district personnel file.

"He had sterling recommendations from the military," said Robby Collins, special assistant to the superintendent.

Police charged Arellano with one count of indecency with a child Friday. He was arrested that day and posted a \$25,000 bond. The additional charges were filed Tuesday.

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