MEMO:
To: Investigative Team -- Eden, Georgia, USA
Epidemiological Intelligence Service
Centers for Disease Control

Thank you for your insightful report regarding the cases of fever of unknown origin in Eden County, Georgia. Upon evaluation of your findings, it seems likely to me that the cases are due to infectious disease. Possible infectious diseases that would fit symptoms and likelihood of exposure to the disease-causing pathogens include:

**Bubonic plague** (*Yersia pestis*): Plague can cause high fevers. Victims had some exposure to a dead rodent (squirrel), which is a possible vector for the disease.

**Malaria** (*Plasmodium vivax, P. falciparum*): Malaria can cause high fevers which exhibit periodicity. Victims were sleeping in the open air in an area likely to have many mosquitoes. Malaria is rare in the United States, but several people at the campground have traveled to areas where malaria is endemic.

**Typhoid** (*Salmonella Typhi*): Typhoid can cause high fevers, chills, and headache. Not common in United States, but a victim who prepared a meal which other victims consumed has traveled to Mexico.

Please research each disease and determine how well each of the diseases fits the characteristics of your outbreak. Decide which disease best fits the description of the outbreak in Eden County. Decide what type of diagnostic test should be done to determine whether or not the victims of this outbreak are suffering from the disease you have identified as being most likely. When you have correctly identified the disease, please be prepared to provide information to the medical staff at Eden County Hospital and members of the community about treatment and procedures to reduce exposure of new individuals to the disease.

Best Regards,

Isela Gonzales, M. D.
EIS, Centers for Disease Control