



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



Division of Disease Control
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Pinellas County Health Department

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To report diseases or request information call:
(Mon-Fri, 8-5, Area code 727):

Epidemiology	824-6932
Hepatitis	824-6932
HIV/AIDS	824-6964
Immunizations	824-6936
STD	824-6911
Tuberculosis	824-6953
Non-business hours	824-6900

Epi Watch is a monthly newsletter produced and distributed by the Pinellas County Health Department Epidemiology Program.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE IN PINELLAS COUNTY

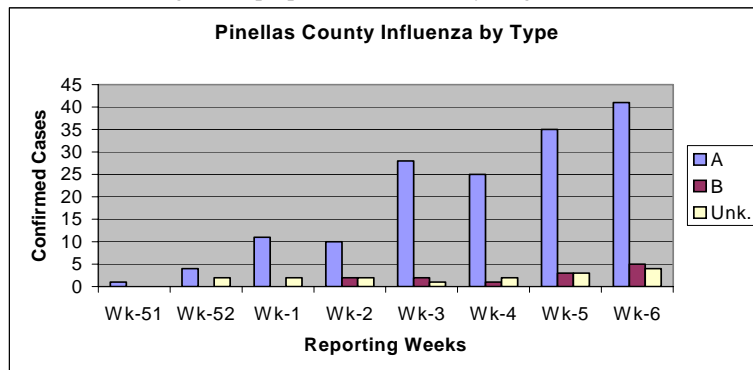
Roger Rugletic, RN, BS, & Maria Donnelly, MSPH

Influenza is a contagious respiratory viral illness, which can cause mild to severe illness. Characteristic symptoms include fever, cough, malaise and sore throat. Those at high risk for complications include the elderly, infants and those with certain health conditions such as heart disease. Because of the large number of cases each season, individual cases of influenza are not reportable, although outbreaks are required to be reported to the Pinellas County Health Department (PCHD). Surveillance systems dedicated to influenza are utilized to monitor disease trends in the community. Several complimentary systems are used to determine influenza activity level, including where, when and which viruses are circulating.

The PCHD participates in the CDC Influenza Sentinel Providers Surveillance Network. This program enrolls physicians to report the number of patients who present with influenza-like-illness (ILI), which is defined as a fever greater than 100°F with a cough or sore throat. Participating physicians also submit a small number of nasopharyngeal swabs for strain typing. Another surveillance system is hospital based in which hospital infection control practitioners send routine reports on the number of positive influenza laboratory results. Because seniors are at high risk for complications, the PCHD also independently monitors influenza activity in local nursing homes.

The information gained from influenza surveillance systems is used in several different ways. Influenza activity, characterized as sporadic to widespread, is based upon the aggregate number of cases. Influenza activity is also characterized temporally and by geographic location. Laboratory data identifies the viral strains and subtypes in the community, which is vital in influenza prevention and control efforts. This information is used to determine which strains will be included in the vaccine for the upcoming season. In addition, laboratory data is used to detect drift and shift in the virus. Surveillance also serves as an early warning system for the detection of novel strains such as avian influenza viruses.

In Pinellas County, the number of reported influenza cases has continued to increase since December 19. During this time period, there were 211 lab-confirmed cases of Influenza A & B. The majority of cases were Influenza A, with the greatest proportion of cases in young children between the ages of 0-4 years.



• Note: Week 51 = Dec 19-25; Week 6 = Feb 6-12

The Pinellas County Health Department would like to thank our community partners for their participation in the influenza surveillance systems. Our ability to control and prevent disease is strengthened by our collaborative efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact the Pinellas County Health Department Disease Control Division with any questions or comments. Adult and pediatric influenza vaccines are still available at our local centers. Please call (727) 824-6900 to check on availability and to make an appointment. Additional information on influenza and influenza surveillance can be found on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

“The reason for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on a disease is to control that disease. Collection and analysis should not be allowed to consume resources if action does not follow.” Foegel, W.H. et al. (1976). Int. J of Epidemiology, 5:29-37.

NA = Not Available

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2005 January	2005 Year-to-Date	2004 Year-to-Date	2004 Total
AIDS	15	15	18	216
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	5	5	4	59
Animal Rabies			4	9
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue				
Eastern Equine Encephalitis				
St. Louis Encephalitis				
West Nile Virus				
California/LaCrosse				1
Anthrax				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	4	4	2	46
Chlamydia	111	111	133	2,312
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)				2
Cryptosporidiosis				7
Cyclosporiasis				1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				2
Giardiasis	1	1	2	28
Gonorrhea	64	64	69	1,305
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia				1
Primary bacteremia				5
Epiglottitis				1
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A	2	2	1	12
B	2	2	4	48
C	1	1	3	14
Non-A, Non-B				5
Hepatitis B:				
Perinatal				
Pregnant woman +HBsAg	3	3	3	26
HIV	16	16	15	244
Legionellosis			1	16
Listeriosis				
Lyme Disease	3	3	1	4
Malaria			1	4
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				1
Listeria monocytogenes				
S. pneumoniae			1	1
Other bacterial				2
Meningococcal Disease	1	1	1	4
Mercury Poisoning				
Mumps	1	1		
Pertussis			4	15
Salmonellosis	2	2	4	170
Shigellosis	5	5	2	19
Smallpox				
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A	1	1	1	8
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	3	3	5	22
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (NDR)	4	4	4	21
Syphilis: Total	4	4	7	126
Infectious (P and S)	3	3	1	49
Early Latent			4	39
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	1	2	38
Congenital				
Tuberculosis	1	1	3	35
<i>Vibrio</i> infections				10

Provisional cases reported by the Pinellas County Health Department. Blank cells indicate no cases reported.

For a complete list of reportable diseases and guidelines for reporting please visit:

http://www.myflorida.com/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8_4.pdf

NA = Not Available

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2005 February	2005 Year-to-Date	2004 Year-to-Date	2004 Total
AIDS		15	18	216
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	5	10	4	59
Animal Rabies	1	1	4	9
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue				
Eastern Equine Encephalitis				
St. Louis Encephalitis				
West Nile Virus				
California/LaCrosse				1
Anthrax				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	4	8	4	46
Chlamydia		111	133	2,312
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)				2
Cryptosporidiosis			2	7
Cyclosporiasis				1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				2
Giardiasis	1	2	2	28
Gonorrhea		64	69	1,305
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia				1
Primary bacteremia	1	1		5
Epiglottitis				1
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A	2	4	4	12
B	4	6	7	48
C		1	4	14
Non-A, Non-B	1	1		5
Hepatitis B:				
Perinatal				
Pregnant woman +HBsAg	5	8	6	26
HIV		16	15	244
Legionellosis			2	16
Listeriosis	1	1		
Lyme Disease		3	1	4
Malaria			1	4
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				1
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	2	2	1	1
Other bacterial				2
Meningococcal Disease	1	2	1	4
Mercury Poisoning			1	1
Mumps		1		
Pertussis	3	3	4	15
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)				
Salmonellosis	10	12	10	170
Shigellosis	3	8	5	19
Smallpox				
<i>Streptococcal</i> Disease, Inv. Group A	2	3	1	8
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	3	6	5	22
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (NDR)	8	12	4	21
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