



# Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



**Division of Disease Control  
Volume 4, Issue 2**

Published March 14, 2005

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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
<b>Non-business hours</b>	<b>824-6900</b>

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

## Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities Program Shelly Personette, RN, BSN, and Maria Donnelly, MSPH

Nursing homes (NH) and assisted living facilities (ALF) provide care to a particularly vulnerable segment of the elderly community. These residents face a variety of health challenges which makes the standard of care they receive integral to their quality of life. The NH/ALF Program ensures the safety of these long-term care residents through inspections, disease surveillance, and the investigation of complaints and outbreaks.

Quality assurance assessments, focused on infection control practices and regulatory compliance, are performed semi-annually at NH and annually at ALF. Upon completion of the inspection, the findings are immediately provided to the facility. The timeliness of results allows for an opportunity to provide public health recommendations and facilitates the swift correction of problems. The program places a priority on improving performance by encouraging provider client feedback through customer satisfaction postcards provided at the close of each inspection. In 2004, the response rate was 65%, with 100% of respondents reporting satisfactory customer service.

NH surveillance for infections and mortality is conducted through monthly reports from the facilities. The system identifies health risks by providing epidemiologic assessment of communicable diseases. At the end of 2004, there were 72 NH with 8,020 beds. The occupancy rate was 90%. Rates of urinary, respiratory, gastrointestinal, skin, eye, and other infections per 1,000 resident days were 2.60, 1.59, 0.59, 0.87, 0.34 and 0.31 respectively. The mortality rate was 3.55%. There were 36 outbreaks in NH, of which 18 were confirmed Norovirus Type G2, 9 scabies, 5 influenza-like-illness, 2 tuberculosis, and 2 hepatitis B. During this same time period, in 239 ALF with 8,005 beds, 6 outbreaks occurred, of which 1 was confirmed Norovirus Type G2, 4 scabies, 1 *Clostridium difficile* and 1 influenza-like-illness. Due to the efforts of the program personnel to build and maintain rapport with provider clients, the surveillance system has an unparalleled 100% participation rate.

The program is active in improving the standard of care through the provision of in-service presentations, professional training, and participation in community organizations. In addition to these activities, the program is also tasked with the annual inspection of the 26 body-piercing salons in Pinellas County. The staff consists of two nurses, is managed under the Disease Control Division, and funded by county and/or facility fees. The program works closely with the Pinellas County Environmental Health Division, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and NH/ALF facilities to ensure the health and safety of long-term care residents.

For additional information, the NH/ALF Program staff can be contacted at (727) 507-4336 x 1378.

*"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." Foege, W.H. et al. (1976). Int. J of Epidemiology, 5:29-37.*

NA = Not Available

**Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County**

Disease	2005 February	2005 Year-to-Date	2004 Year-to-Date	2004 Total
AIDS	28	40	39	216
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	5	10	4	59
Animal Rabies	1	1	4	4
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue				
Eastern Equine Encephalitis				
St. Louis Encephalitis				
West Nile Virus				
California/LaCrosse				1
Anthrax				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	4	8	4	46
Chlamydia	134	248	297	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	81	144	159	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	34	52	49	244
Legionellosis			2	16
Listeriosis	1	1		
Lyme Disease		3	1	4
Malaria			1	4
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				1
Listeria monocytogenes				
S. pneumoniae	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				
Streptococcal 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
Syphilis: Total	3	8	13	126
Infectious (P and S)	2	5	5	49
Early Latent	1	1	4	39
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)		2	4	38
Congenital				
Tuberculosis		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](http://www.myflorida.com/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8_4.pdf)

