



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



**Division of Disease Control
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Pinellas County Health

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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.

Hepatitis Awareness Month

Robert Keane, LPN and Bonnie Lovely, RN

The prevention and control of viral hepatitis is recognized as a priority public health issue. Hepatitis A is transmitted by the fecal-oral route, while hepatitis B and C are transmitted by blood and body fluids. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections are responsible for numerous cases of chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis of the liver, and liver cancer, with many deaths each year attributed to these diseases. Because of this, prevention of viral hepatitis is of primary importance.

Hepatitis A and hepatitis B are vaccine-preventable diseases with vaccines widely available for both. Unfortunately, no vaccine is available for hepatitis C, therefore, behavioral changes are key to the prevention of infection for viral hepatitis.

To encourage these behavioral changes, education, risk reduction counseling, hepatitis A and hepatitis B immunizations, and testing are services offered to those at risk by the Pinellas CHD through the Florida Hepatitis and Liver Failure Prevention and Control Program. Since the inception of the chronic hepatitis program in the year 2000, 9,808 hepatitis tests have been completed; 5,280 hepatitis A and 6,656 hepatitis B vaccines have been administered; and 20,513 individuals in the community have received education and outreach services. All of these services continue to be provided free of charge to residents of Pinellas County through state funding.

Clients with acute viral hepatitis are provided with an in-depth investigation and collection of specimens and data through the CDC Sentinel Counties Acute Hepatitis Program. Pinellas CHD has participated in and received funding for this program for over 23 years, resulting in major contributions to viral hepatitis prevention and control. Prompt reporting of suspect and confirmed hepatitis cases will ensure that timely interventions may be implemented to prevent further transmission of these communicable diseases in the community.

Please visit our website at www.pinellashealth.com or the Florida DOH Hepatitis Prevention & Control Program at www.doh.state.fl.us or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov to find out more about the prevention and control of viral hepatitis. To report a confirmed or suspected case of viral hepatitis, please contact the Pinellas CHD Epidemiology Program at 824-6932.

***Thank you to all nurses contributing to the health of the public!
We salute you during National Nurses Week!***

"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 April	2005 Year-to-Date	2004 Year-to-Date	2004 Total
AIDS	27	81	70	213
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	1	15	13	59
Animal Rabies	1	2	5	4
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue				
Eastern Equine Encephalitis				
St. Louis Encephalitis				
West Nile Virus				
California/LaCrosse				1
Anthrax				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	3	13	12	46
Chlamydia	121	502	642	2,312
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)		1	1	2
Cryptosporidiosis			2	7
Cyclosporiasis	4	4		1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				2
Giardiasis	1	4	6	28
Gonorrhea	78	283	365	1,305
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		1		1
Primary bacteremia		2		5
Epiglottitis			1	1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)		1		
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A		4	8	12
B	1	10	12	48
C		3	7	14
Non-A, Non-B		1	3	5
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	1	13	10	26
HIV	30	119	87	239
Legionellosis	1	3	3	16
Listeriosis		1		
Lyme Disease	1	4	2	4
Malaria			2	4
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				1
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	1	3	1	1
Other bacterial	1	1	1	2
Meningococcal Disease	1	3	3	4
Mercury Poisoning			1	1
Mumps		1		
Pertussis		4	4	15
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)				
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever				
Salmonellosis	15	38	26	170
Shigellosis	4	15	8	19
Smallpox				
<i>Streptococcal</i> Disease, Inv. Group A	1	4	3	8
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	2	12	12	22
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (NDR)		13	10	21
Syphilis: Total	5	28	27	126
Infectious (P and S)	3	14	9	49
Early Latent	2	8	10	39
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)		6	8	38
Congenital				
Tuberculosis	1	5	12	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

