



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



Division of Disease Control
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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.

Investigation of *Burkholderia cepacia* Contaminated Alcohol-Free Mouthwash Associated with Nosocomial Pneumonia

Hunter R. Zager, B.S.

Burkholderia cepacia is a group of aerobic bacteria that is commonly found in the environment in soil and water. These organisms hold little threat for healthy people but may cause infection in the immunocompromised, often in hospitalized patients. Exposure to *B. cepacia* can cause some level of respiratory infection, ranging from no symptoms to pneumonia, and is especially severe in those individuals with chronic lung diseases, particularly cystic fibrosis. *B. cepacia* transmission via contaminated medications and devices has been previously reported through items such as nasal spray and mouthwash and has recently been identified again in alcohol-free mouthwash.

On August 26, 2005, Carrington Labs (Irving, TX) issued a voluntary recall of Medline labeled alcohol-free mouthwash, manufactured for Medline Industries (Mundelein, IL). It had been determined that the mouthwash was contaminated by *B. cepacia* during the manufacturing process. The CDC had been notified of clusters of pneumonia and other infections caused by *B. cepacia* in several states. This mouthwash, packaged in 4-ounce and 2-ounce bottles, was distributed nationwide to hospitals and other health care facilities. The recalled bottles can be identified by specific lot numbers (beginning with 0503 through 0508) and manufacturer ID code (RA05CRR).

Prompted by the recall, the Pinellas County Health Department, on Monday, August 29, began an investigation into the extent of product distribution to local facilities. Thirty-four facilities were identified as having received Medline alcohol-free mouthwash. Each facility was contacted to determine if the specific recalled product was used and if any cases of upper respiratory illness had occurred. Among the facilities that used the recalled product, 12 lab-confirmed cases of *B. cepacia* infection were identified in 3 hospitals. Upper respiratory illness was also identified in 4 long-term care facilities, and specimens were obtained and tested from 3 of these. As of September 9, all cultured specimens of sputum and recalled mouthwash from the long-term care facilities were negative for *B. cepacia*.

The recalled mouthwash was removed from use in all facilities between August 26 and September 2 and was subsequently picked up by Medline. Surveillance for confirmed cases of *B. cepacia* is ongoing. If you suspect *B. cepacia* respiratory illness due to this product, or have any further questions regarding this ongoing investigation, please contact Hunter Zager at (727) 507-4336 x1373. For further information on the recalled product, please see the FDA recall announcements: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/medline08_05.html and <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/2005/NEW01225.html>.

NA = Not Available

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2005 August	2005 Year-to-Date	2004 Year-to-Date	2004 Total
AIDS	12	127	111	213
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	2	32	31	59
Animal Rabies		4	7	4
Arboviral Illness (Human): Dengue		4		
EEE				
SLE		2		
WNV	11	13		
CA/LaCrosse			1	1
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis		30	34	46
Chlamydia	176	1,136	1,461	2,312
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)		2	1	2
Cryptosporidiosis	2	5	2	7
Cyclosporiasis		57		1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	1	1	1	2
Giardiasis	3	16	13	28
Gonorrhea	112	686	863	1,305
<i>H. influenzae</i> : Meningitis				
Pneumonia		1	1	1
Primary bacteremia		3	3	5
Epiglottitis			1	1
Hansen Disease		1		
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)		1		
Hepatitis, Acute Viral: A		5	10	12
B	1	20	30	48
C	2	5	11	14
Non-A, Non-B		1	5	5
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	2	22	23	26
HIV	15	191	147	247
Legionellosis	2	5	7	14
Listeriosis		1		
Lyme Disease	2	7	3	4
Malaria		1	4	4
Meningitis: <i>Group B Strep</i>			1	1
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	1	4	1	1
Other bacterial		3	2	2
Meningococcal Disease		4	3	4
Mercury Poisoning			1	1
Mumps		1		
Pertussis		4	11	15
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)				
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever		1	1	1
Salmonellosis	9	91	96	170
Shigellosis	20	95	12	19
Smallpox				
<i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A	1	9	5	8
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)		18	14	22
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suspect)	3	25	17	21
Syphilis: Total	11	52	63	126
Infectious (P and S)	4	23	21	49
Early Latent	6	19	25	39
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	10	17	38
Congenital				
Tuberculosis	1	17	28	35
<i>Vibrio</i> infections		3	6	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