



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.

Update on Avian Influenza Surveillance and Reporting

Sue Heller, RN, BSN and Maria Donnelly, MSPH

From December 1, 2003, to February 3, 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 161 confirmed human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1). The case fatality rate was 53.0%. Human cases have been reported from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iraq, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. No human or animal cases of H5N1 infection have been reported in North America. The new cases continue to be seen predominately in persons with direct or close contact with sick or dead birds, mostly poultry, or contaminated surfaces from bird feces or respiratory secretions. The WHO continues to monitor for any genetic mutation of the virus. Thus far there has been no evidence of genetic reassortment between human and avian influenza A virus genes.

There is a ban on the importation of birds and bird products from the affected countries of Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, China, Romania, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam (as of 12/29/05). Nigeria has also recently identified infected birds. The Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry continue to monitor wild and domestic bird populations for signs of illness, respectively.

The Laboratory Response Network (LRN) is currently testing an Influenza A/H5 (Asian Lineage) Virus Real-Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) primer and probe set developed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This test will be used in conjunction with other diagnostic and clinical data to identify infected patients and to supplement current surveillance methods. This is the only laboratory method that has been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for avian influenza A/H5 testing. The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Laboratory Services is part of the LRN and will be participating in the pilot testing.

The most recent avian influenza factsheet can be found on the WHO website at www.who.int. The Florida Department of Health continues to strengthen its preparedness efforts and work closely with its community partners to quickly identify any suspect cases of human infection with H5N1. If you should have a patient present with compatible symptoms following travel to an affected country, please contact the Pinellas County Health Department for avian influenza testing evaluation.

"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	2006 January	2006 Year-to-Date	2005 Year-to-Date	2005 Total
AIDS	8	8	7	165
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	3	3	5	48
Animal Rabies				5
Arboviral Illness (Human):				3
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV			1	18
CA/LaCrosse				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	3	3	4	39
Chlamydia	138	138	163	2505
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)				2
Cryptosporidiosis				15
Cyclosporiasis				57
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				3
Giardiasis	1	1	1	30
Gonorrhea	76	76	114	1436
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia	1	1		1
Primary bacteremia				6
Epiglottitis				
Hansen Disease				1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	1	1	1	1
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A	1	1	2	9
B			2	36
C	1	1	1	7
Non-A, Non-B				1
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	1	1	3	33
HIV	14	14	15	244
Legionellosis				8
Listeriosis				1
Lyme Disease			1	5
Malaria				1
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>				6
Other bacterial	1	1		5
Meningococcal Disease			1	7
Mercury Poisoning				
Mumps			1	1
Pertussis	2	2		13
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)				
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever				1
Salmonellosis	8	8	2	212
Shigellosis	2	2	5	169
Smallpox				
<i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A			1	11
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)	2	2	3	27
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suscept)	3	3	4	29
Syphilis: Total	4	4	12	95
Infectious (P and S)	3	3	4	41
Early Latent			5	32
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	1	3	22
Congenital				
Tuberculosis	4	4	1	27
<i>Vibrio</i> infections				5

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