



# 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
<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. For more information, or to add your e-mail address to the distribution list, please contact Andrea Dopico: [andrea\\_dopico@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:andrea_dopico@doh.state.fl.us)

*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."*

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



## IMMUNIZATIONS: KEEPING YOU ALIVE AND WELL!

Cynthia Murphy, RN, BA

The Pinellas County Health Department (Pinellas CHD) provides a comprehensive Immunization Program with the goal of preventing acute and chronic vaccine-preventable diseases. Immunizations are offered according to the CDC recommendations for infants, preschoolers, school-aged children, adolescents, and adults. The Pinellas CHD's Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) provides all required vaccinations for children under the age of 18 years free of charge. We also provide immunizations for foreign travel and rabies pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis. Diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, and tetanus, have caused significant morbidity and mortality in children in the past. Many diseases have been virtually eliminated by successful immunization programs. Other diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough), meningitis, and hepatitis B continue to pose serious risks for vulnerable populations.

For pertussis in particular, immunity gained through preschool immunizations wanes by the teen years, resulting in this population being susceptible to pertussis and serving as a source of the illness for infants, who are at highest risk of serious complications. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) has recently recommended that adolescents 11 to 12 years of age be given Tdap (Tetanus/Diphtheria/acellular Pertussis) in place of the Td (Tetanus/Diphtheria) booster. Any adolescents 13 to 18 years of age who missed the 11 to 12 year dose of Td and adolescents 11 to 18 years of age who have already been immunized with Td are encouraged to receive a dose of Tdap. Two vaccines for pertussis have been licensed recently by the FDA, one for adolescents aged 10 to 18 years and the other for people aged 11 to 64 years. The new pertussis vaccines are currently available at the Pinellas CHD.

Both adolescents and young adults are at increased risk for meningococcal invasive disease. MCV4 (a new tetravalent meningococcal conjugated vaccine), brand name Menactra, is currently available via the VFC program at no charge to 15-year-olds entering high school and 17 and 18-year-olds preparing to enter college. Parents are strongly encouraged to contact their child's physician or visit their health department at this time to ensure that the required back-to-school immunizations are up to date and official shot records are obtained to assure school entry.

Rabies is a virtually 100% fatal disease acquired through exposure to a rabid animal. Pinellas CHD, along with Pinellas County Animal Control, investigates animal bite reports to assure appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis within 10 days after exposure. Quick reporting of animal bites to humans is essential for appropriate follow-up. In 2005, five rabid animals were identified in Pinellas County. Fifty two persons who had exposure to animals known or suspected to rabid, were provided rabies immune globulin and rabies vaccine.

The Foreign Travel Program provides vaccines to protect both the traveler and the home community against various exotic diseases. Recommendations for avoiding exposure, especially to food-borne and vector-borne illnesses, are emphasized.

To learn more about services offered through the Immunization Program, please contact the Pinellas County Health Department. A healthy community is dependent upon the healthy individual.

NA = Not Available

**Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County**

<b>Disease</b>	<b>2006 July</b>	<b>2006 Year-to-Date</b>	<b>2005 Year-to-Date</b>	<b>2005 Total</b>
AIDS	21	138	117	160
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	1	23	30	48
Animal Rabies			4	5
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue	1	3	3	3
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				18
CA/LaCrosse				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	4	16	30	39
Chlamydia	240	1564	1322	2505
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)				2
Cryptosporidiosis	1	3	3	15
Cyclosporiasis			57	57
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				3
Giardiasis	4	17	13	30
Gonorrhea	145	942	757	1436
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		1	1	1
Primary bacteremia		4	3	6
Epiglottitis				
Hansen Disease			1	1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)		1	1	1
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A		2	5	9
B	3	10	21	36
C		6	3	7
Non-A, Non-B			1	1
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	3	18	22	33
HIV	18	108	166	237
Legionellosis		8	3	8
Listeriosis	1	1	1	1
Lyme Disease	1	1	1	4
Malaria			1	1
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		1	4	6
Other bacterial	2	7	4	5
Meningococcal Disease		5	5	7
Mercury Poisoning				
Mumps			1	1
Pertussis	1	13	4	13
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)				
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever		2		
Salmonellosis	12	66	84	212
Shigellosis	1	14	77	169
Smallpox				
<i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A	1	8	8	11
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)		8	18	27
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suscept)		15	22	29
Syphilis:				
Total	10	82	41	95
Infectious (P and S)	3	23	19	41
Early Latent	2	37	13	32
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	5	22	9	22
Congenital				
Tuberculosis	1	18	14	27
<i>Vibrio</i> infections (vulnificus)		1	1	2

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)