



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 10
October 11, 2007

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To report diseases by phone call:
(727) 824-6932

To report diseases by fax
(other than HIV/AIDS) use:
(727) 820-4270

Epi Watch is a monthly newsletter from the Pinellas County Health Department. For more information, or to add your e-mail address to the distribution list, please contact Andrea Dopico:
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“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.

Influenza season 2007-2008

The official influenza season began on September 30, 2007 and is expected to last until February. Influenza (the flu) is a common respiratory illness that courses through our population each winter, causing fevers, sore throats, coughs and absenteeism from work and school. The flu is a contagious and potentially serious illness that can lead to hospitalization and even death. Flu vaccines (flu shots) are safe, effective and cannot cause the flu. **The Pinellas County Health Department will begin offering flu shots on Monday, October 15.** Health officials recommend flu shots for everyone – especially for individuals in the following groups:

- ✦ Individuals age 50 and older
- ✦ Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
- ✦ People with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart or kidney disease, or a weakened immune system and their household contacts
- ✦ All children between 6 months and 5 years of age, their household contacts and out-of-home caregivers— Children in this age group should receive two doses of the vaccine
- ✦ Pregnant women or women who will be pregnant during flu season
- ✦ Healthcare personnel
- ✦ Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than six months of age

You can get a flu shot at your own doctor's office, area walk-in clinics, at flu shot events hosted by local supermarkets and other public places or, starting on **Monday, October 15, at the Pinellas County Health Department.** There are five Pinellas County Health Department health centers:

St. Petersburg – 205 Dr. ML King Street North
Clearwater – 310 N. Myrtle Avenue
Pinellas Park – 6350 76th Avenue North
Largo – 12420 130th Avenue North
Tarpon Springs – 301 South Disston Avenue

The cost of a flu shot at the health department is \$25. Pneumonia vaccines will also be available for \$40. Bring your Medicare card and a photo ID. As supplies are available, the health department will offer flu shots on a walk-in basis from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday **starting Monday, October 15, 2007.** Call the health center nearest you to check supply on the day you plan to go in for a flu shot. You can also call our **flu shot hotline** at (727) 824-6900, then press **2**, for current information. Information will also be available on our website at www.PinellasHealth.com.

Sentinel Influenza Surveillance

The Pinellas County Health Department uses several different surveillance systems to monitor the seasonal flu levels in the community. One system is the Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network. This program is a collaboration between the Florida Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Participating physicians report the number of patients that present with influenza-like illness, defined as having a fever greater than 100°F with cough or sore throat, on a weekly basis. Sentinel providers are important to the success of the Influenza Surveillance System. This program allows the Health Department to detect outbreaks of respiratory diseases and the incidence of influenza in the community. The Pinellas County Health Department is currently recruiting providers for this important surveillance program. Providers of any specialty (e.g. family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious diseases) in any type of practice (e.g. private practice, public health clinic, urgent care center, emergency room) are eligible to participate. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Andrea Dopico at:

andrea_dopico@doh.state.fl.us

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2007 September	2007 Year-to-Date	2006 Year-to-Date	2006 Total
AIDS	13	130	168	220
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	2	26	30	38
Animal Rabies		1		
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue		2	2	2
EEE				
SLE				
WNV		1		
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	2	36	20	28
Chlamydia	209	2501	2171	2961
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)		1		1
Cryptosporidiosis	3	12	8	9
Cyclosporiasis		1		
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7		1	2	2
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)		12	2	3
Giardiasis	3	19	28	37
Gonorrhea	97	1114	1263	1646
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		2	2	3
Primary Bacteremia		2	4	5
Epiglottitis				
Hansen's Disease		2		
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A		5	5	5
B		16	17	24
C	1	6	6	9
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	4	27	20	27
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	33	200	111	186
C	192	1308	1025	1581
HIV	20	202	131	173
Lead Poisoning:				
Total:	6	22	14	22
Children < 6 years:	1	5	5	6
Legionellosis	2	9	11	13
Listeriosis			2	2
Lyme Disease	6	9	1	3
Malaria		1	3	3
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	1	3	2	2
Other Bacterial		3	7	10
Meningococcal Disease		1	5	7
Mercury Poisoning			3	5
Mumps				
Pertussis	2	7	4	5
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever		1	2	3
Salmonellosis	21	141	109	175
Shigellosis	2	39	17	19
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A	1	9	10	16
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	2	33	13	18
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)	2	17	20	25
Syphilis:				
Total	16	82	107	140
Infectious (P and S)	12	42	28	38
Early Latent	2	24	49	59
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	2	16	30	43
Tuberculosis	3	31	25	30
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	2	10	6	6

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.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/index.html