



# Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter

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To report diseases by phone call:

TELEPHONE: (727) 824-6932

To report diseases by fax  
(other than HIV/AIDS) use:

FAX: (727) 820-4270

*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:

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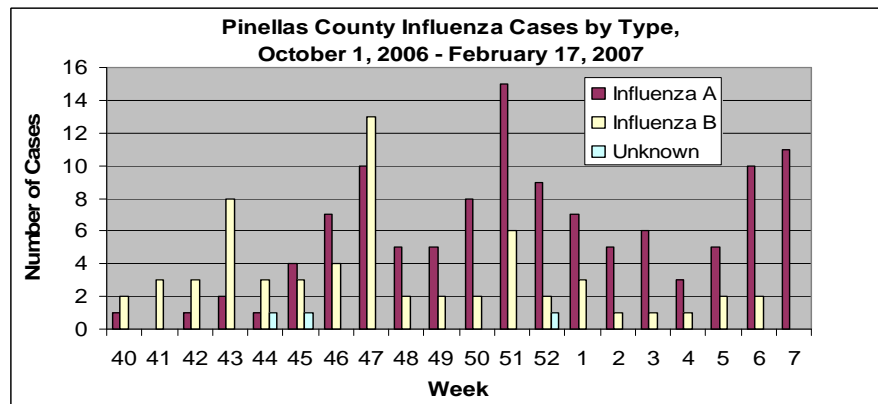
"The reason for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on a disease is to control that disease. Collection and analysis should not be allowed to consume resources if action does not follow."

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

## Influenza and "Bird Flu": Surveillance and Planning *Hunter Zager, MPH*

Influenza is a common respiratory illness that courses through our population each winter, causing fevers, sore throats, coughs and absenteeism from work and school. While the presence of this illness is expected at a certain level in our community, a different strain of the same virus is making worldwide headlines for causing bird and human illness and even death. As the presence of influenza in our community threatens to change, so does the role of the Pinellas County Health Department (PinCHD). PinCHD continues to monitor for levels of seasonal influenza in our community, and has also begun planning for what might happen if this other strain of "bird flu" – H5N1 – causes a pandemic.

PinCHD utilizes several different surveillance systems to monitor the seasonal influenza levels in the community. Hospitals in Pinellas County have graciously agreed to report all laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza to the health department, which allows for the monitoring of types of influenza (A or B) circulating in our local population. The graph below shows the trends of Influenza Type A and Influenza Type B for the 2006-2007 influenza season thus far.



In addition to hospital surveillance for confirmed cases, PinCHD also monitors levels of influenza-like illness (ILI) in the community. One system for monitoring ILI is the CDC's Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network. In this program, physicians report the number of patients that present with influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as having a fever greater than 100°F with cough or sore throat. Pinellas County currently has eight providers enrolled in this program.

Additionally, many nursing homes in the county report levels of ILI in their resident and staff populations to PinCHD on a weekly basis. These reports not only help monitor levels of ILI in the community, but also help us identify possible influenza outbreaks. The introduction of the H5N1 strain of "bird flu" has brought with it a new facet to influenza surveillance at PinCHD. Planning for a possible influenza pandemic poses a new challenge for both PinCHD and our community as a whole. PinCHD's Office of Public Health Preparedness has begun meeting with representatives from local and county governments, schools, colleges, hospitals and many businesses to discuss planning efforts for – and potential effects of – an influenza pandemic. Information to assist with individual and business planning efforts, along with links and a copy of PinCHD's Pandemic Influenza Plan, are all available on the internet at [www.pinellashealth.com/php.asp](http://www.pinellashealth.com/php.asp), under Pandemic Influenza. For more information on influenza surveillance and planning for pandemic influenza, please contact the Office of Public Health Preparedness at (727) 507-4857.

## Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2007	2006	2006
	January	Year-to-Date	Total
AIDS	10	9	221
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	1	3	38
Animal Rabies			
Arboviral Illness (Human):			4
Dengue			
EEE			
SLE			
WNV			
CA/LaCrosse			
Botulism			
Campylobacteriosis	6	3	28
Chlamydia	190	138	2904
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)			1
Cryptosporidiosis	1		9
Cyclosporiasis			
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	1		2
Giardiasis	1	1	36
Gonorrhea	100	76	1631
<i>H. influenzae</i> :			
Meningitis			
Pneumonia		1	3
Primary bacteremia			5
Epiglottitis			
Hansen's Disease			
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)		1	
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:			5
A	1		
B	2	1	24
C		1	9
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	7	1	30
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral			186
B	3	10	
C	6	74	1585
HIV	27	10	176
Lead Poisoning:			22
Total:	4		
Children < 6 years:	1		6
Legionellosis	2		13
Listeriosis			2
Lyme Disease			6
Malaria			3
Meningitis:			
Group B Strep			
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>			2
Other bacterial	1	1	10
Meningococcal Disease	1		7
Mercury Poisoning			5
Mumps			
Pertussis			5
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)			
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever			3
Salmonellosis	16	8	172
Shigellosis	2	2	18
<i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A	2		16
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)	4	2	18
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suscept)	4	3	25
Syphilis:			143
Total	9	4	
Infectious (P and S)	5	3	40
Early Latent	2		60
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	2	1	43
Congenital			
Tuberculosis	3	4	31
<i>Vibrio</i> infections	1		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](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/index.html)