



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 of 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:
andreadopico@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.”

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

Hepatitis Awareness Month

Robert Keane, LPN and Bonnie Lovely, RN

Prevention and control of viral hepatitis is recognized as a priority public health issue. Hepatitis A is transmitted by the fecal-oral route, while hepatitis B and C are transmitted by blood and body fluids. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections are responsible for numerous cases of chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer, with many deaths each year attributed to these diseases. Because of this, preventing viral hepatitis is of primary importance.

Hepatitis A and hepatitis B are vaccine-preventable diseases with vaccines widely available for both. Unfortunately, there is no vaccine available for hepatitis C. Therefore, behavioral changes are key to the prevention of infection for viral hepatitis.

To encourage these behavioral changes, education, risk reduction counseling, hepatitis A and hepatitis B immunizations and testing are services offered to those at risk by the Pinellas CHD through the Florida Hepatitis and Liver Failure Prevention and Control Program. Since the inception of the chronic hepatitis program in 2000, 13,163 hepatitis tests have been completed; 6,398 hepatitis A and 9,178 hepatitis B vaccines have been administered; and 34,113 individuals in the community have received education and outreach services. These services are provided free of charge to residents of Pinellas County through state funding.

Clients with acute viral hepatitis are provided with an in-depth investigation and collection of specimens and data through the CDC Sentinel Counties Acute Hepatitis Program. Pinellas CHD has participated in and received funding for this program for more than 23 years, resulting in major contributions to viral hepatitis prevention and control. In addition, the Pinellas CHD is currently involved in a chronic Hepatitis B and C Surveillance program in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Physicians will be receiving requests for additional information about their clients. Prompt reporting of suspect and confirmed hepatitis cases will ensure timely implementation of interventions to prevent further transmission of these communicable diseases.

Please visit our website at www.pinellashealth.com or the Florida DOH Hepatitis Prevention and Control Program at www.doh.state.fl.us or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov to find out more about prevention and control of viral hepatitis. To report a confirmed or suspected case of viral hepatitis, please contact the Pinellas CHD Epidemiology Program at 824-6932.

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2007	2007	2006	2006
	April	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Total
AIDS	14	59	74	220
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	2	9	13	38
Animal Rabies				
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue			2	2
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				
CA/LaCrosse				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	4	19	7	28
Chlamydia	317	942	859	2904
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)				1
Cryptosporidiosis		2	2	9
Cyclosporiasis				
<i>E. coli O157:H7</i>		1		2
Giardiasis	3	7	11	37
Gonorrhea	165	434	495	1631
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		2	1	3
Primary bacteremia	1	2	3	5
Epiglottitis				
Hansen's Disease	2	2		
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				1
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A		2	2	5
B	3	9	3	24
C		1	2	9
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	5	13	11	30
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	33	80	54	186
C	158	510	452	1581
HIV	13	102	39	175
Lead Poisoning:				
Total:	3	7	3	22
Children < 6 years:		1	1	6
Legionellosis	2	6	5	13
Listeriosis				2
Lyme Disease				3
Malaria			1	3
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	1	2	1	2
Other bacterial		1	3	10
Meningococcal Disease		1	4	7
Mercury Poisoning				5
Mumps				
Pertussis	1	1	1	5
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	1	1	1	1
Salmonellosis	10	48	33	175
Shigellosis	6	12	7	19
<i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A		5	5	16
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)	4	21	7	18
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suscept)	2	11	12	25
Syphilis:				
Total	10	33	48	143
Infectious (P and S)	4	20	12	40
Early Latent	4	9	22	60
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	2	4	14	43
Tuberculosis	3	11	10	31
<i>Vibrio</i> infections	2	3	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: