



# Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



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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.

## ***E. coli* at a Day Camp - Pinellas County, June 2007**

Karen Ann Alelis, MPH, Patricia Borkowski, RN, and Andrea Dopico, MPH

On June 7, 2007, the Pinellas County Health Department (PinCHD) was notified by a private physician, Dr. Brian Kagan, about a positive *Escherichia coli* Shiga Toxin lab result. The specimen was collected on June 5 from a 9-year-old child who presented with recurrent episodes of diarrhea and occasional bloody stools with onset on June 1. From May 28 to June 1, the child attended a day camp at a nature park in Pinellas County where there is a petting zoo. At the day camp, the child had frequent direct contact with a baby goat with visible fecal matter on its fur.

An on-site investigation was conducted by PinCHD Epidemiology and Environmental Health staff. The animal area is gated and housed 22 goats, 1 sheep, and 1 llama. There is one entrance and exit. There are four handwashing stations with running water, soap, and paper towels. There are also visible signs to remind the children to wash their hands and not bring any food or drink in the animal area. As a precaution, PinCHD recommended to the Camp Director to stop all animal contact until results from animal testing had been received.

On June 11, Dr. Kagan reported another positive laboratory result for Shiga Toxin-producing *E. coli* from the 3-year-old sibling of the first case. On June 14 and June 15, a local hospital reported three additional cases positive for Shiga Toxin-producing *E. coli*. Among these cases, the median age was 9 years (range: 3-12 years); 3 (60%) were female. Illness onset ranged from May 29 to June 11. Symptoms reported were as follows: diarrhea (5, 100%), abdominal cramping (4, 80%), vomiting (1, 20%), and fever (2, 40%). Four (80%) cases reported blood in the stool. Among these 5 cases, 3 (60%) were hospitalized. All recovered from their illness.

A common exposure among four children was the day camp petting zoo; the sibling of the index case did not attend the day camp. The participants brought their own lunches to the day camp. Exposure histories revealed no common food or water exposures. Four cases were caused by *E. coli* O157 and had the same identical outbreak strain.

To determine if there were any additional cases, a list of campers who attended the day camp during the weeks starting May 21, May 28 and June 4, were obtained from the Camp Director. The majority of the parents of the campers (121/135; 90%) were contacted to determine the presence of any symptoms related to diarrheal illness. No additional cases were uncovered.

Fecal samples obtained from the animals at the petting zoo were submitted to the USDA lab in Nebraska. Preliminary results showed several of the fecal samples from the goats were positive for *E. coli* O157-like organisms. Final results are expected by mid- August.

According to the list of Reportable Diseases/Conditions from the Florida Department of Health, *E. coli* O157:H7 and *E. coli*, Other (known serotype) is a notifiable condition of urgent public health importance and must be reported immediately by phone upon diagnosis or test result. The Pinellas County Health Department is available to receive such reports by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Of the five cases, four were promptly reported to PinCHD upon a positive test result. One case was not reported until 12 days after the final positive result was confirmed on June 2. If this case had been reported upon diagnosis or test result, two of the five cases may have been prevented.

PinCHD would like to thank Dr. Brian Kagan, who reported the first two cases. Collaboration with physicians and local hospitals throughout this investigation allowed PinCHD staff to link these cases and identify the association to the day camp petting zoo. In addition, we would like to acknowledge the day camp for their cooperation in this investigation and their commitment to ensuring the health and safety of their visitors. The identification of the possible source of exposure and the recommendation to cease further animal contact, helped to prevent further illness at the day camp.

**To report a disease** or condition to the Pinellas County Health Department, please call:  
**(727) 824-6932** or fax case reports to: **(727) 820-4270**

**\*\*Please DO NOT report cases of HIV/AIDS nor HIV-exposed newborns via fax.**

# Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

| Disease                                       | 2007 | 2007         | 2006         | 2006  |
|---|------|--------------|--------------|-------|
|   | July | Year-to-Date | Year-to-Date | Total |
| AIDS  | 12   | 99           | 129          | 220   |
| Animal Bite, PEP Recommended                  | 7    | 23           | 23           | 38    |
| Animal Rabies                                 | 1    | 1            |              |       |
| Arboviral Illness (Human):                    |      | 1            | 2            | 2     |
| Dengue  |      |              |              |       |
| EEE   |      |              |              |       |
| SLE   |      |              |              |       |
| WNV   |      |              |              |       |
| CA/LaCrosse                                   |      |              |              |       |
| Campylobacteriosis                            | 8    | 32           | 16           | 28    |
| Chlamydia                                     | 343  | 1835         | 1613         | 2904  |
| Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)               |      | 1            |              | 1     |
| Cryptosporidiosis                             |      | 2            | 3            | 9     |
| Cyclosporiasis                                |      |              |              |       |
| <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7                        |      | 1            | 1            | 2     |
| <i>E. coli</i> Shiga toxin (+)                |      | 11           |              |       |
| Giardiasis                                    | 2    | 13           | 17           | 37    |
| Gonorrhea                                     | 154  | 810          | 970          | 1631  |
| <i>H. influenzae</i> :                        |      |              |              |       |
| Meningitis                                    |      |              |              |       |
| Pneumonia                                     |      | 2            | 1            | 3     |
| Primary bacteremia                            |      | 2            | 4            | 5     |
| Epiglottitis                                  |      |              |              |       |
| Hansen's Disease                              |      | 2            |              |       |
| Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)               |      |              |              |       |
| Hepatitis, Acute Viral:                       |      |              |              |       |
| A   | 1    | 4            | 2            | 5     |
| B   |      | 13           | 10           | 24    |
| C   |      |              | 6            | 9     |
| Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg            | 5    | 24           | 15           | 27    |
| Hepatitis, Chronic Viral                      |      |              |              |       |
| B   | 21   | 147          | 101          | 186   |
| C   | 121  | 988          | 818          | 1581  |
| HIV   | 17   | 165          | 93           | 173   |
| Lead Poisoning:                               |      |              |              |       |
| Total:  | 2    | 10           | 6            | 22    |
| Children < 6 years:                           | 1    | 2            | 2            | 6     |
| Legionellosis                                 |      | 6            | 8            | 13    |
| Listeriosis                                   |      |              | 1            | 2     |
| Lyme Disease                                  | 1    | 1            |              | 3     |
| Malaria                                       |      |              | 1            | 3     |
| Meningitis:                                   |      |              |              |       |
| Group B Strep                                 |      |              |              |       |
| <i>S. pneumoniae</i>                          |      | 2            | 1            | 2     |
| Other bacterial                               |      | 3            | 6            | 10    |
| Meningococcal Disease                         |      | 1            | 5            | 7     |
| Mercury Poisoning                             |      |              |              | 5     |
| Mumps   |      |              |              |       |
| Pertussis                                     | 2    | 7            | 2            | 5     |
| Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever                  |      | 1            | 2            | 3     |
| Salmonellosis                                 | 18   | 92           | 66           | 175   |
| Shigellosis                                   | 10   | 29           | 14           | 19    |
| <i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A    |      | 8            | 8            | 16    |
| <i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)      | 5    | 31           | 8            | 18    |
| <i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suscept) | 1    | 15           | 15           | 25    |
| Syphilis:                                     |      |              |              |       |
| Total   | 5    | 54           | 87           | 143   |
| Infectious (P and S)                          | 2    | 26           | 22           | 40    |
| Early Latent                                  | 1    | 18           | 40           | 60    |
| Congenital                                    |      |              |              |       |
| Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)    | 2    | 10           | 25           | 43    |
| Tuberculosis                                  | 5    | 24           | 18           | 30    |
| <i>Vibrio</i> infections                      |      | 5            | 5            | 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)