



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



Volume 7, Issue 2
February 15, 2008

Pinellas County Health Department
205 Dr. M.L King Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-6900
www.PinellasHealth.com

Director

Claude Dharamraj, MD, MPH, FAAP
claude_dharamraj@doh.state.fl.us

Disease Control Division Director

Patricia L. Ryder, MD, MPH
pat_ryder@doh.state.fl.us

Disease Control Operations Mgr. HIV/AIDS Program Manager

Lisa Cohen, BS
lisa_cohen@doh.state.fl.us

Epidemiology Program Manager

Dongming Cui, MD, MPH, DrPH
dongming_cui@doh.state.fl.us

Surveillance Program Manager

Andrea M. Dopico, MPH
andrea_dopico@doh.state.fl.us

STD Program Manager

Sherry Lewis, BS
sherry_lewis@doh.state.fl.us

TB Program Manager

Robert Berger, BA
robert_berger@doh.state.fl.us

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:
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."

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

Influenza-Associated Mortality and MRSA Information and Recommendations

Andrea M. Dopico, MPH

On January 30, 2008, the CDC released a Health Advisory concerning influenza-associated pediatric mortality and *Staphylococcus aureus* co-infections. The number of pediatric influenza-associated deaths in which a co-infection with *S. aureus* was present was five times greater in 2006-2007 than in the two previous surveillance years since the national surveillance system has been in place.

From October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007, the CDC received reports of 73 deaths due to influenza in children from 39 state health departments and two city health departments. Of these 73 cases, data on the existence of bacterial co-infections were recorded for 69 cases. Of these sixty-nine, 22 cases were infected with *S. aureus*. By comparison, only one *S. aureus* co-infection among 47 influenza deaths was identified in 2004-2005, and 3 co-infections among 46 deaths were identified in 2005-2006. Of the 22 influenza deaths reported with *S. aureus* in 2006-2007, 15 children had infections with methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA).

The flu strains infecting the dead children last year were not different from the strains circulating in the community, the CDC said in its alert. And the MRSA strains involved in the deaths have been similar to those involved in common skin infection outbreaks.

In 2007, four fatalities were reported in Florida, two of which were children under the age of 18. All four cases, which came from Hillsborough County, were co-infected with influenza and *S. aureus*. Record reviews indicate that these cases had no health care associated risk and met the CDC case definition of Community Associated MRSA.

Florida is concerned about the increase in rapidly progressing, community-acquired MRSA pneumonia deaths in otherwise healthy individuals, both children and adults. Because these deaths are not reportable conditions, there is a need for enhanced surveillance to collect information to guide public health response. The Department of Health recommends that physicians conduct bacterial as well as viral cultures on patients who present with rapidly progressing community onset pneumonia, regardless of age. The Florida Bureau of Laboratories is able to assist physicians with these tests. Physicians should contact their local county health department to arrange a specimen collection.

For additional information or assistance with these cultures, please call the Pinellas County Health Department: **(727) 824-6932**. The Bureau of Laboratories in Tampa may be reached at: **(813) 974-8000**.

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2008 January	2007 January	2007 Total
AIDS	3	10	171
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	1	1	41
Animal Rabies			1
Arboviral Illness (Human):			2
Dengue			
EEE			
SLE			
WNV			1
CA/LaCrosse			
Campylobacteriosis	2	6	48
Chlamydia	310	190	3484
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)			2
Cryptosporidiosis	1	1	15
Cyclosporiasis			1
<i>E. coli O157:H7</i>		1	1
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)	1	1	13
Giardiasis		1	27
Gonorrhea	123	100	1530
<i>H. influenzae</i> :			
Meningitis			
Pneumonia			2
Primary Bacteremia	1		5
Epiglottitis			
Hansen's Disease			2
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)			
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:			
A		1	6
B	4	2	22
C	2		6
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	1	5	33
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral (includes probable cases)			
B	24	3	265
C	136	6	1746
HIV	36	26	252
Lead Poisoning:			
Total:	2	4	28
Children < 6 years:		1	6
Legionellosis		2	8
Listeriosis			1
Lyme Disease	1		12
Malaria			1
Meningitis:			
Group B Strep			5
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>			6
Other Bacterial		1	4
Meningococcal Disease	1	1	4
Mercury Poisoning			
Mumps			
Pertussis			8
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever			1
Salmonellosis	12	16	222
Shigellosis	1	2	39
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A	1	2	15
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	5	4	39
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)	2	4	24
Syphilis:			
Total	13	9	131
Infectious (P and S)	6	5	65
Early Latent	5	2	40
Congenital			
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	2	2	26
Tuberculosis	3	3	39
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections			11

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