

# PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



## 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.

## Summer Safety

Suzanne DeKay, MSPH and Andrea Dopico, MPH

Going to the beach in the summertime is a very popular pastime for Florida residents and visitors alike. Below are some of the most common conditions associated with the summer months and how you can stay safe while having fun.

### Healthy Beaches

The Florida Department of Health has a Healthy Beaches program that regularly monitors water quality in Florida's beaches. Every week, water samples are taken from 14 beaches in Pinellas County. This water is tested for levels of indicator bacteria, specifically *Enterococcus* and fecal coliforms. Both types of bacteria are enteric microorganisms that are found in the intestines of humans and other animals. Occurrences of these bacteria indicate the possibility of the existence of pathogens that can cause gastrointestinal illness. **For more information about this program and to review bacterial sampling results for Pinellas County, please visit [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us). Select 'Beach Water Quality' from the 'A-Z Topics' menu and then click on 'Pinellas County'.**

### Red Tide

Red tide is a phenomenon caused by blooming dinoflagellates. Contrary to popular opinion, this event does not always turn marine water red or brown. When dinoflagellates that lie near the surface of the ocean water become broken up by surf at the shore or by breaking waves offshore a toxin is released in the air which can result in eye and respiratory irritation (coughing, sneezing, tearing and itching). Any effects usually decline when a person is no longer exposed. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) coordinates a year-round statewide comprehensive red tide monitoring program. The FWRI established a red tide status line. **Florida residents and visitors can call 1-866-300-9399 at any time, from anywhere in Florida, to hear a recording that details red tide conditions.**

### Extreme Heat

Intense heat can play a major role in summer health. People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to compensate and properly cool themselves. The elderly, very young and people with chronic health problems are most at risk. Warning signs of include headache, dizziness, confusion, rapid pulse, nausea, skin that is red and hot, lack of sweating, and progression to unconsciousness. If you see any signs of severe heat stress, you may be dealing with a life-threatening emergency. Cool the person rapidly using any available methods and have someone call for immediate medical assistance.

A car left in the sun can reach an interior temperature of 120°F within 15 minutes. Cracking the windows has been shown to make little difference. **To prevent serious heat-related illness or death, never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle.**

Being aware of the hazards of summer can help protect you and your family. For more safety tips, please visit: [www.pinellashealth.com](http://www.pinellashealth.com) or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

# Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease		2008 May	2008 Year-to-Date	2007 Year-to-Date	2007 Total
AIDS		13	98	81	171
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended		7	16	12	42
Animal Rabies					1
Arboviral Illness (Human):	Dengue			1	2
	EEE				
	SLE				
	WNV				1
	CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis		2	14	21	48
Chlamydia		352	1557	1189	3468
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)					2
Cryptosporidiosis		1	2	2	15
Cyclosporiasis					1
<i>E. coli O157:H7</i>			1	1	1
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)		1	3	5	12
Giardiasis			9	8	27
Gonorrhea		136	587	535	1521
<i>H. influenzae</i> :	Meningitis				
	Pneumonia		1	2	2
	Primary Bacteremia	1	2	2	5
	Epiglottitis				
Hansen's Disease				2	2
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)					
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:	A		1	2	6
	B	6	16	12	22
	C	3	6	1	7
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg		4	14	14	33
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral	B	20	117	109	265
	C	124	669	709	1743
HIV		28	167	129	251
Lead Poisoning:	Total:	10	19	9	28
	Children < 6 years:	3	3	1	6
Legionellosis			1	6	8
Listeriosis			1		1
Lyme Disease		1	1		4
Malaria		1	1		1
Meningitis:	Group B Strep				
	<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		1	2	5
	Other Bacterial		2	3	6
Meningococcal Disease			3	1	3
Mercury Poisoning		1	1		
Mumps					
Pertussis			5		8
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever					
Salmonellosis		20	63	58	220
Shigellosis			2	16	39
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A			2	7	15
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)		1	13	25	39
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)			8	13	24
Syphilis:	Total	12	49	49	139
	Infectious (P and S)	2	18	27	68
	Early Latent	7	22	15	45
	Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)		3	9	7	26
Tuberculosis		3	13	14	39
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections			3	5	11