



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:
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."

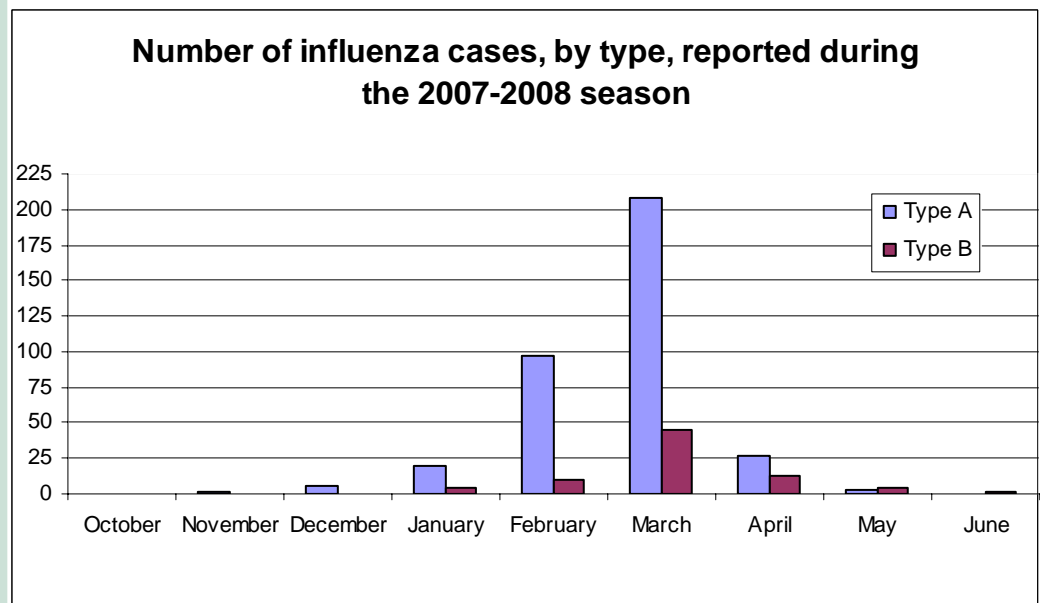
Foege, W.H. et al. (1976). *Int. J of Epidemiology*, 5:29-37.

Influenza Surveillance

Andrea Dopico, MPH

The official 2008-2009 influenza season will begin on September 28, 2008. As in previous seasons, the Pinellas County Health Department (PinCHD) will be prepared to monitor the incidence of influenza in the county to allow for the early detection of outbreaks.

The PinCHD utilizes 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. During the 2007-2008 influenza season, 435 cases were reported to the PinCHD. The graph below shows the trends of Influenza Type A and Influenza Type B for the 2007-2008 influenza season.



The majority (69%) of influenza cases during the 2007-2008 season occurred in individuals between 5-64 years of age. Among those age groups who are more vulnerable to influenza, 19% of cases were children under 5 and 12% were adults aged 65 and over.

In addition to hospital surveillance for confirmed cases, the PinCHD also monitors levels of influenza-like illness (ILI) in the community. Many nursing homes in the county report levels of ILI in their resident and staff populations to PinCHD on a weekly basis.

Another 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 a fever greater than 100°F with cough or sore throat. Pinellas County is currently recruiting providers for this program. Sentinel providers receive influenza testing kits. All specimens are tested in the Florida State Laboratories at no cost to the provider. In addition, the providers also receive summaries of Florida and national influenza data. If you are interested in receiving additional information about this program, please send an e-mail to: Sharlene_Edwards@doh.state.fl.us

We appreciate our community colleagues who provide valuable data and look forward to our continued collaboration!

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2008 August	2008 Year-to-Date	2007 Year-to-Date	2007 Total
AIDS	6	129	117	170
Animal Rabies	1	1	1	1
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue		1	2	2
EEE				
SLE				
WNV			1	1
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	4	26	35	48
Chlamydia	356	2533	2259	3454
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)		1	1	2
Cryptosporidiosis	2	7	9	15
Cyclosporiasis	1	5	1	1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	1	2	1	1
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)	1	5	11	12
Giardiasis	6	21	16	27
Gonorrhea	168	989	1003	1516
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		2	2	2
Invasive Disease		4	2	5
Epiglottitis				
Hansen's Disease			2	2
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A		2	5	6
B		17	16	22
C		7	6	7
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	2	25	24	33
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	13	168	175	265
C	143	1082	1181	1743
HIV	23	220	176	249
HIV, Perinatally exposed infants	3	13	7	11
Lead Poisoning: Children < 6 years:		3	4	6
Legionellosis	1	4	6	8
Listeriosis		1		1
Lyme Disease	2	4	2	4
Malaria		1	1	1
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		2	2	5
Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic		3	3	6
Meningococcal Disease	1	5	1	3
Mercury Poisoning		1		
Mumps				
Pertussis	3	9	6	8
Rabies, possible exposure	10	27	24	42
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever				
Salmonellosis	16	119	123	220
Shigellosis	1	3	37	39
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A		2	8	15
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	5	21	31	39
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)	7	15	15	24
Syphilis:				
Total	16	84	76	147
Infectious (Primary & Secondary)	12	33	35	72
Early Latent	4	33	22	46
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)		18	19	29
Tuberculosis	1	17	28	39
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	1	5	8	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