



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



March, 2010

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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 the Editor.

A multi-state mumps outbreak is occurring primarily among the Hasi-dic (Jewish) population residing or attending school in the New York and New Jersey areas. A mumps outbreak affecting this same population is also ongoing in Israel.

The onset of Pesach (Passover) may represent new opportunities for mumps transmission as people travel for the holiday, especially

"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."

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

To report diseases by phone call:
(727) 824-6932

To report diseases by fax (other than HIV/AIDS) use:
(727) 820-4270

INCREASE IN GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS CAUSED BY NOROVIRUS

The Pinellas County Health Department has detected an increase in the number of reports of gastrointestinal illness clusters in various community settings. This pattern is occurring throughout the state with reports of norovirus and gastrointestinal illness clusters in schools, assisted living facilities, long-term care facilities, and correctional facilities. During this time of year, it is typical to see an increase in illnesses due to norovirus. Since January, the Pinellas County Health Department has received at least 40 reports of GI illness clusters in congregate living facilities and households.

Norovirus may cause gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach cramping. Sometimes people may also have a low-grade fever, chills, muscle aches, headache, and an overall feeling of being tired. For most people, the symptoms only last for 24 to 48 hours.

While there is no treatment for norovirus, it is recommended that infected persons get plenty of rest and consume extra liquids to avoid dehydration. People with symptoms of norovirus should stay home while ill to avoid the spread of the virus. In addition, people who are infected with norovirus should not prepare food for others or work in sensitive environments like child care, school, food service, or health care facilities while they have symptoms and for at least three days after they have recovered since it is possible to carry the organism after symptoms subside.

Per Florida Administrative Code 64D-3, outbreaks or clusters of illness are reportable to the Health Department.

For more information about norovirus, visit http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctrl/epi/diseases.htm#N or www.cdc.gov.

As a preventative measure, the Pinellas County Health Department encourages frequent hand-washing, especially before preparing food and after using the toilet or changing a child's diaper. This is the most effective means of preventing the spread of norovirus and other communicable diseases.

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2010 February	2010 Year to date	2009 Year to date	2009 Total
AIDS	5	16	3*	165
Animal Rabies			1	1
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	4	5	5	30
Chlamydia	393	724	763	4961
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)				
Cryptosporidiosis	3	4	1	19
Cyclosporiasis			1	2
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)				
Giardiasis	3	4	3	34
Gonorrhea	100	226	298	1760
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Invasive Disease	1	2		8
Hansen's Disease				1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A			1	6
B			4	28
C	2	2		3
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	8	10	4	24
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	17	30	25	187
C	111	235	232	1389
HIV	11	34	2*	202
Lead Poisoning: Children < 6 years:	1	1	1	5
Legionellosis				10
Listeriosis				
Lyme Disease				3
Malaria			1	3
Meningitis:				
Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic	1	1	3	7
Meningococcal Disease	1	1	1	3
Mercury Poisoning				
Mumps				2
Pertussis		1		4
Rabies, possible exposure	1	4	10	75
Salmonellosis	9	15	17	286
Shigellosis	1	2	1	4
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A		1	5	14
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)		2	8	35
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)	2	4	7	28
Syphilis:				
Total	6	17	42	204
Infectious (P and S)	1	6	16	76
Early Latent	4	8	23	88
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	3	3	40
Tuberculosis	3	3	3	18
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	1	1		8

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

* Year to date data cannot be compared to the first few months of 2009 due to data entry issues with the new eHARS system at that time.