



EPI WATCH

Monthly Epidemiology and Preparedness Newsletter

June 2018

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Division of Disease Control and Health Protection



Disease Reporting

To report diseases and clusters of illness:

Phone: (727) 824-6932

Fax: (727) 484-3865 (excluding HIV/AIDS)

To report HIV/AIDS by mail:

Surveillance Room 3-138
205 Dr. MLK Jr St. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

National Outbreak of Illnesses Related to Contaminated Synthetic Marijuana Products Expands to Florida

In May, the Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County confirmed two cases of potentially life-threatening vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy that has been associated with synthetic cannabinoid use. Both individuals reported use of spice, a synthetic form of marijuana, that was likely contaminated. Investigations into similar cases have found evidence of brodifacoum, a type of rat poison, in many of the patients and in the synthetic marijuana products that they had reported using recently.

Consumers can buy synthetic cannabinoids in convenience stores, from individual drug dealers, or online. The contaminated products may be labeled as: synthetic cannabinoids, fake pot, fake weed, legal weed, spice, K-2, AK-47, Mr. Happy, Scooby Snax, Kush, and/or Kronic. Nationwide, at least seven synthetic cannabinoid product samples related to this outbreak have tested positive for brodifacoum.

The index case was identified on March 3 in Illinois and case patients have since been identified in nine states. More information on the outbreak occurring in Illinois can be found in the recent *Morbidity and Mortality Report, Notes from the Field* published on June 1: [Outbreak of Severe Illness Linked to the Vitamin K Antagonist Brodifacoum and Use of Synthetic Cannabinoids — Illinois, March–April 2018.](#)

A recent health advisory distributed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides more information regarding the status of the multistate outbreak and available resources for healthcare providers: [HAN 410](#)

Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Adelaide Infections Linked to Pre-Cut Melon

CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states are working with the the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate an outbreak of *Salmonella* Adelaide associated with consumption of pre-cut melon supplied by Caito Foods, LLC.

A total of 60 people from five Midwestern states, infected with the outbreak strain, have been reported, 31 of which have been hospitalized. At this time, no cases have been identified in Florida.

On June 8, Caito Foods, LLC recalled pre-cut watermelon, honeydew melon, cantaloupe, and fruit medley products containing melons produced at the Caito Foods facility in Indianapolis, Indiana. A complete list of stores and states where the recalled product was sold can be found [here](#).



Source: www.cdc.gov

Information on the ongoing investigation can be found [here](#).

Additional Health Advisories and Alerts

[Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Mbandaka Infections Linked to Kellogg's Honey Smacks Cereal](#)

[Multistate Outbreaks of *Salmonella* Infections Linked to Contact with Live Poultry in Backyard Flocks, 2018](#)

[Multistate Outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 Infections Linked to Romaine Lettuce](#)

CDC HAN 411: Update - CDC Recommendations for Managing and Reporting *Shigella* Infections with Possible Reduced Susceptibility to Ciprofloxacin

Summary: This Health Alert Network (HAN) Update provides current recommendations on management and reporting of *Shigella* infections that have been treated with ciprofloxacin or azithromycin and resulted in possible clinical treatment failure. This is a follow-up to HAN 401: CDC Recommendations for Diagnosing and Managing *Shigella* Strains with Possible Reduced Susceptibility to Ciprofloxacin.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to identify an increasing number of *Shigella* isolates that test within the susceptible range for the fluoroquinolone antibiotic ciprofloxacin (minimum inhibitory concentration [MIC] values of 0.12-1 µg/mL), but harbor one or more resistance mechanisms. CDC remains concerned about potential clinical failures with fluoroquinolone treatment.

Clinicians should carefully monitor patients with *Shigella* infections who require fluoroquinolone treatment and report any possible treatment failures. If treatment failure is suspected, clinicians should submit a stool specimen for antimicrobial susceptibility testing, and consider consulting an infectious disease specialist to identify best treatment options. CDC has also identified an increasing number of *Shigella* isolates with azithromycin MICs that exceed the epidemiological cutoff value (ECV), and is requesting reports of any possible treatment failures occurring among patients with *Shigella* infections treated with azithromycin.

Shigellosis is a nationally notifiable condition; all cases should be reported to local health departments.

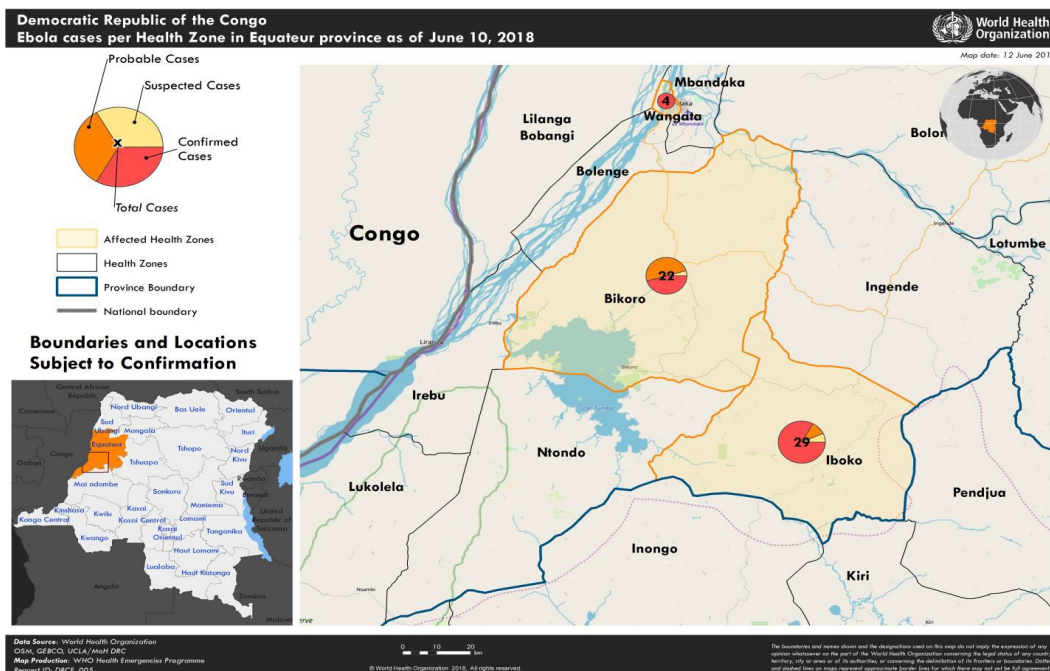
The complete report can be found [here](#).

Update: 2018 Ebola Virus Outbreak - Democratic Republic of the Congo

The outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains active. As of June 16, a total of 64 confirmed, probable and suspect cases (including 28 deaths) have been reported. To date, the outbreak has remained localized in three health zones and appears to be geographically limited. Geographical distribution of the cases can be seen in the image below.

This is the ninth EVD outbreak in the DRC over the last four years, with the most recent in May 2017. Response efforts for this recent outbreak includes deployment of the Newlink/Merck rVSV-EBOV vaccine, an experimental Ebola vaccine, that has been provided to more than 2,295 individuals as of June 10.

For additional information on the current Ebola outbreak investigation and international response, please visit the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/emergencies/crises/cod/en/>.



Select Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

| Disease | Pinellas | | YTD Total | | Pinellas County Annual Totals | | |
|--|----------|----------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------|------|
| | May 2018 | May 2017 | Pinellas 2018 | Florida 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
| A. Vaccine Preventable | | | | | | | |
| Measles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mumps | 0 | 0 | 1 | 31 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Pertussis | 2 | 1 | 7 | 110 | 35 | 18 | 17 |
| Varicella | 3 | 1 | 11 | 320 | 24 | 74 | 38 |
| B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias | | | | | | | |
| Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic) | 0 | 5 | 2 | 47 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Meningococcal Disease | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| C. Enteric Infections | | | | | | | |
| Campylobacteriosis | 36 | 13 | 105 | 1853 | 207 | 137 | 104 |
| Cryptosporidiosis | 3 | 3 | 11 | 197 | 40 | 27 | 49 |
| Cyclosporiasis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| <i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+) | 1 | 0 | 7 | 312 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| Giardiasis | 7 | 5 | 22 | 436 | 45 | 41 | 30 |
| Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Listeriosis | 0 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Salmonellosis | 19 | 18 | 78 | 1771 | 278 | 188 | 196 |
| Shigellosis | 4 | 0 | 20 | 573 | 26 | 19 | 174 |
| D. Viral Hepatitis | | | | | | | |
| Hepatitis A | 5 | 0 | 7 | 63 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg | 0 | 2 | 10 | 165 | 25 | 28 | 37 |
| Hepatitis B, Acute | 2 | 1 | 20 | 320 | 52 | 68 | 57 |
| Hepatitis C, Acute | 6 | 1 | 20 | 175 | 30 | 49 | 32 |
| E. VectorBorne/Zoonoses | | | | | | | |
| Animal Rabies | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Rabies, possible exposure | 13 | 7 | 61 | 1681 | 140 | 131 | 114 |
| Chikungunya Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Dengue | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Eastern Equine Encephalitis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lyme Disease | 13 | 1 | 14 | 39 | 17 | 11 | 6 |
| Malaria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| West Nile Virus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Zika Virus Disease | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 5 | | |
| F. Others | | | | | | | |
| Chlamydia | 565 | 368 | 2491 | n/a | 4188 | 4133 | 4168 |
| Gonorrhea | 179 | 132 | 814 | n/a | 1574 | 1566 | 1439 |
| Hansen's Disease | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lead Poisoning | 17 | 7 | 53 | 1154 | 101 | 32 | 40 |
| Legionellosis | 2 | 3 | 9 | 159 | 23 | 19 | 18 |
| Mercury Poisoning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Syphilis, Total | 26 | 27 | 191 | n/a | 382 | 400 | 289 |
| Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary) | 9 | 13 | 81 | n/a | 160 | 188 | 151 |
| Syphilis, Early Latent | 14 | 8 | 67 | n/a | 128 | 146 | 83 |
| Syphilis, Congenital | 0 | 0 | 1 | n/a | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neuro-syphilis) | 3 | 6 | 42 | n/a | 89 | 64 | 52 |
| Tuberculosis | 3 | 7 | 10 | n/a | 28 | 31 | 14 |
| <i>Vibrio</i> Infections | 0 | 0 | 1 | 63 | 11 | 8 | 11 |

n/a = not available at this time.

Reportable diseases include confirmed and probable cases only. All case counts are provisional. Data is collected from the Merlin Reportable Disease database, surveillance systems maintained at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, and Florida CHARTS <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/default.aspx>. STD data in PRISM is continually updated. Please note, data from the previous month takes up to an additional month or more to be correctly updated.