FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN PINELLAS COUNTY

EPI WATCH

Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter

January 2019

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County
205 Dr. MLK Jr. Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-6900
www.PinellasHealth.com

Director
Ulyee Choe, DO

Editor
JoAnne Lamb, MPH
Joanne.Lamb@flhealth.gov

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

Follow us:
@HealthyPinellas

Ask Me About HPV!
Become an HPV ambassador

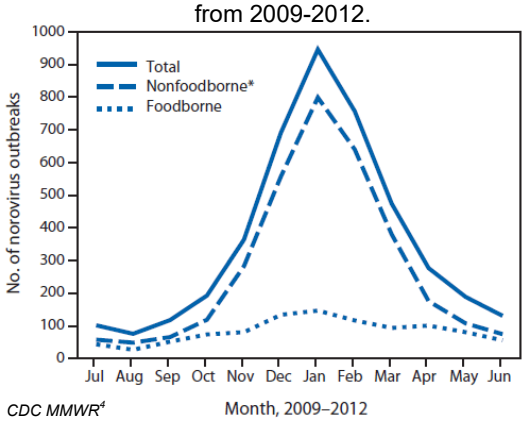
HPV Cancer Education and Ambassador Trainings

Click here to learn more

Norovirus

Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that is the leading cause of foodborne illness and outbreaks in the United States. Symptoms of norovirus infection include diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain. These symptoms develop 12 to 48 hours after exposure and typically improve within one to three days. To prevent dehydration, individuals should drink plenty of liquids to replace fluid lost from vomiting and diarrhea.

Reported norovirus outbreaks in the U.S. from 2009-2012.



CDC MMWR[4]

Individuals with norovirus can shed billions of virus particles and it only takes a few to make other people sick[1]. Infection may occur from eating or drinking food/liquids contaminated with the virus, touching contaminated surfaces and then touching their mouth, and having direct contact with someone infected with norovirus[2]. There are many norovirus genotypes that cause human infection; therefore, it is possible to become infected more than once. The peak season for norovirus outbreaks is between December to March[2].

To avoid infection, individuals should practice proper hand washing with soap and water, wash fruits and vegetables, clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces and wash clothes or linens that may have been contaminated[2,3]. Individuals that are symptomatic should not prepare food. Norovirus can be resistant to heat and can survive temperatures as high as 145 ºF (63 ºC). Thus, food that might be contaminated should be discarded[3].

For more ways to prevent norovirus outbreaks from food contamination, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/norovirus/infographic.html#infographic

References:
[1]Hall, A. J., Lopman, B. A., Payne, D. C., Patel, M. M., Gastañaduy, P. A., Vinjé, J., & Parashar, U. D. (2013). Norovirus disease in the United States. Emerging infectious diseases, 19(8), 1198
[2]Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Norovirus. Webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/index.html. Accessed on November 2018.
[3]Norovirus Prevention. Webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/about/prevention.html. Accessed on November 2018.
[4]Hall, A. J., Wikswo, M. E., Pringle, K., Gould, L. H., & Parashar, U. D. (2014). Vital signs: foodborne norovirus outbreaks-United States, 2009-2012. MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report, 63(22), 491-495.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in Men

Nearly 8 out of 10 people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime. The HPV virus is spread through vaginal, anal or oral sex with someone who has the virus and can be transmitted even if the infected person is asymptomatic[1]. Once infection occurs, the virus can cause throat, anus and penis cancers in men and over 13,000 men have HPV-related cancers in the U.S.[1]. With the exception of cervical cancer, there are no recommended routine screening tests for other types of HPV-related cancers[2].

The HPV vaccine can prevent most cancers and other diseases caused by HPV and is recommended for both boys and girls in their preteen years. The HPV series is routinely given at 11 or 12 years of age, but can be started at age 9 through age 26 years[3]. There are several exceptions with age recommendations and individuals should consult with their health care provider for more information.

To learn more about HPV vaccination, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/ne.html

References:
[1]Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention for Boys, Too! Webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/features/hpvvaccineboys/index.html. Accessed on January 2019.
[2]Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HPV Cancer Screening. Webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/screening.html. Accessed on January 2019.
[3]Centers of Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC). What is HPV? Webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/whatishpv.html. Accessed on January 2019.

Hepatitis A in Pinellas County

Pinellas County continues to see an unprecedented increase in hepatitis A cases. In 2018, there were 559 hepatitis A cases reported for Florida, 113 (20%) of those are from Pinellas County.

Risk factors:

- ◊ Anyone who has not been vaccinated for hepatitis A
- ◊ Individuals recently in jail or prison
- ◊ Those who use drugs
- ◊ Those who are currently homeless or couch-surfing
- ◊ Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- ◊ Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common

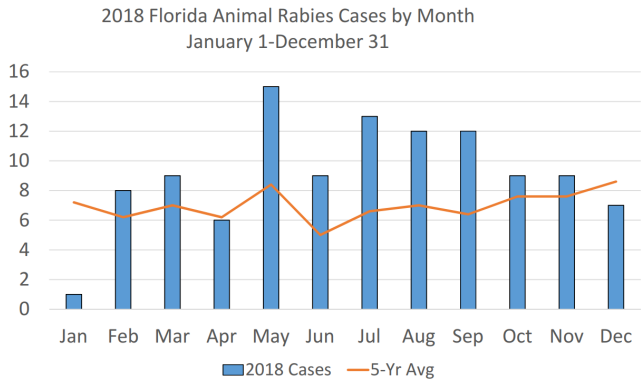
Hepatitis A is on the rise in Tampa Bay. If you are unvaccinated, you are at risk!

Hepatitis A virus is usually spread through touching contaminated surfaces, eating or drinking something contaminated, close contact with a person who has hepatitis A and oral to anal sexual contact. The best way to prevent hepatitis A is through proper hygiene and vaccination. For a limited time, the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County is offering the two-dose hepatitis A vaccine at no cost at any of the following locations:

St. Petersburg	Mid-County	Pinellas Park	Clearwater	Tarpon Springs
205 Dr MLK JR St N St. Petersburg, FL 33701	8751 Ulmerton Rd Largo, FL 33771	6350 76th Ave N Pinellas Park, FL 33781	310 N Myrtle Ave Clearwater, FL 33755	301 S Disston Ave Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

For more information, please visit the DOH-Pinellas website: http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/index.html

Animal Rabies Surveillance in Florida



Rabies, a preventable viral disease, can be fatal to humans and other mammals[1]. This virus is found in Florida's wildlife and can be transmitted through the bite of an infected animal to unvaccinated pets, posing a threat to their owners[1,2]. By state law, dogs, cats, and ferrets are required to be vaccinated against rabies. However, outside cats are the most common domestic animals to have rabies as they are often not up-to-date on vaccinations.

In 2018, Florida reported 110 animal rabies cases, where most cases were identified among raccoons (61 cases) and bats (20 cases). The top three counties that reported cases were Miami-Dade (11 cases), Brevard (10 cases) and Hillsborough (9 cases). A map of Florida with this data can be accessed here. Overall, 2018 cases were above the previous five-year average, where a peak in cases was observed in May 2018.

The best way to prevent rabies exposure is avoiding direct contact with wildlife, not feeding wildlife, vaccinating your pets and supervising pets and children while outside[2]. If you believe you have been exposed to rabies, contact your health care provider and county health department right away. For information on preventing rabies in animals and what to do if you suspect rabies, please visit CDC's rabies prevention webpage.

For more information, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/ and Florida's Rabies Surveillance Data and Maps.

References:
[1]Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Rabies. Webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/. Accessed on January 2019.
[2]Florida Department of Health. Rabies. Webpage: http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html. Accessed on January 2019.

Health Advisories and Travel Notices

Zika Virus in India

Update: Polio in Niger

FDA Recalls, Market withdrawals, and Safety Alerts

Update: Ebola in Democratic Republic of the Congo

Select Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

	Pinellas		YTD Total*		Pinellas County Annual Totals		
Disease	**December 2018**	**December 2017**	**Pinellas 2018**	**Florida 2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**
A. Vaccine Preventable							
Measles	**0**	**0**	**7**	**15**	0	0	0
Mumps	**0**	**0**	**2**	**56**	2	0	0
Pertussis	**0**	**5**	**32**	**331**	35	18	17
Varicella	**12**	**2**	**67**	**905**	24	74	38
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	**0**	**0**	**1**	**23**	2	2	3
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	**2**	**0**	**9**	**113**	7	7	6
Meningococcal Disease	**0**	**0**	**1**	**19**	0	0	1
C. Enteric Infections							
Campylobacteriosis	**15**	**21**	**264**	**4732**	207	137	104
Cryptosporidiosis	**1**	**3**	**34**	**588**	40	27	49
Cyclosporiasis	**0**	**0**	**4**	**76**	6	5	3
E. coli Shiga Toxin (+)	**1**	**2**	**14**	**771**	9	3	2
Giardiasis	**4**	**2**	**41**	**1107**	45	41	30
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**8**	0	0	0
Listeriosis	**0**	**0**	**1**	**48**	0	2	2
Salmonellosis	**15**	**23**	**221**	**7265**	278	188	196
Shigellosis	**2**	**5**	**40**	**1512**	26	19	174
D. Viral Hepatitis							
Hepatitis A	**37**	**0**	**112**	**560**	0	2	4
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	**0**	**0**	**14**	**399**	25	28	37
Hepatitis B, Acute	**6**	**6**	**50**	**798**	51	68	57
Hepatitis C, Acute	**2**	**5**	**37**	**430**	30	49	32
E. VectorBorne/Zoonoses							
Animal Rabies	**0**	**0**	**4**	**134**	2	4	1
Rabies, possible exposure	**10**	**14**	**130**	**4088**	140	131	114
Chikungunya Fever	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**	0	1	2
Dengue	**0**	**0**	**0**	**83**	0	2	3
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	**0**	**1**	**11**	**177**	17	11	6
Malaria	**1**	**0**	**3**	**57**	0	0	2
West Nile Virus	**0**	**0**	**0**	**39**	0	1	1
Zika Virus Disease	**0**	**0**	**1**	**131**	5	n/a	n/a
F. Others							
Chlamydia	**305**	**341**	**4400**	**n/a**	4188	4133	4168
Gonorrhea	**91**	**134**	**1427**	**n/a**	1574	1566	1439
Hansen's Disease	**0**	**0**	**0**	**17**	0	0	0
Legionellosis	**2**	**1**	**26**	**494**	23	19	18
Mercury Poisoning	**0**	**0**	**1**	**36**	1	0	1
Syphilis, Total	**25**	**36**	**422**	**n/a**	382	400	289
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	**9**	**14**	**188**	**n/a**	160	188	151
Syphilis, Early Latent	**9**	**14**	**148**	**n/a**	128	146	83
Syphilis, Congenital	**0**	**0**	**2**	**n/a**	5	2	3
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	**7**	**8**	**84**	**n/a**	89	64	52
Tuberculosis	**2**	**1**	**32**	**n/a**	28	31	14
Vibrio Infections	**1**	**1**	**6**	**246**	11	8	11

*YTD up to December 31, 2018. 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.