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

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

October 19th is National Mammography Day.

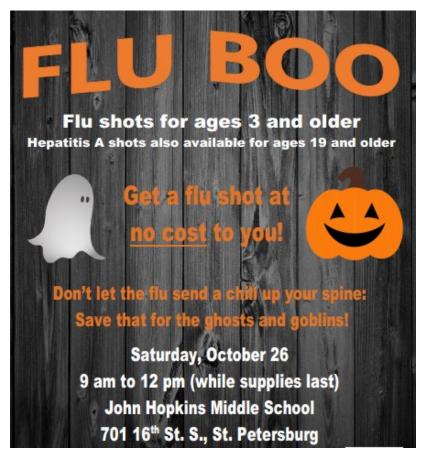Mammograms are the best way to detect breast cancer early, before symptoms develop.

Click HERE for more information about Breast Cancer.

Flu Boo 2019

The 2019-2020 Influenza season has started and the Florida Department of Health urges all Floridians older than six months to get their influenza vaccination before Halloween on October 31. While Florida's influenza season peaks in the early months of the year, early vaccination ensures protection during the holiday season when many gather for celebrations and family events. Influenza strains change from year to year so a new vaccine is needed at the start of each season.

To ensure people receive their vaccine early in the season, DOH-Pinellas County will be hosting its Sixth Annual Flu Boo. Participants will be eligible to receive influenza vaccines, as well as hepatitis A vaccines, at no-cost. Additionally, there will be patient educational information and treats for children.

For more information about the Flu Boo or how to get a flu vaccine at DOH Pinellas, call (727) 824-6932 or visit www.FluFreeFlorida.com.

FLU BOO
Flu shots for ages 3 and older
Hepatitis A shots also available for ages 19 and older
Get a flu shot at no cost to you!
Don't let the flu send a chill up your spine:
Save that for the ghosts and goblins!
Saturday, October 26
9 am to 12 pm (while supplies last)
John Hopkins Middle School
701 16th St. S., St. Petersburg

DOH-Pinellas distributes a weekly Influenza Report throughout the heightened season to report on influenza activity and trends. If you are interested in being added to the e-mail distribution list, please contact Kristine Aviles, DOH-Pinellas Influenza Coordinator at Kristine.Aviles@flhealth.gov.

Sepsis and Policy

Sepsis is an overwhelming immune response to an infection typically occurring in the lungs, skin, kidneys, or gut [1].

Sepsis can rapidly damage tissue, organs, and even result in death[2].In the United States, Sepsis causes nearly 270,000 deaths annually. Those at highest risk of developing the uncontrolled infection include children, adults over 65 years old, people with chronic conditions, and those with weakened immune systems[2].

To reduce the rate of this fatal and costly infection, education and policy around sepsis management is recommended. In 2013, New York was the first state to establish regulations to improve diagnosis and treatment. The guidelines included screening and early recognition of various forms of sepsis as well as time sensitive use antibiotics and intravenous fluids [3]. Following protocol implementation, sepsis mortality rate dropped from 26.3% to 22% in the following two years [4]. Currently, three states: New York, Illinois and New Jersey have updated hospital licensing standards to include evidenced-based protocols to treat sepsis [5].

Click here to learn more about sepsis and how policy can improve practice.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms of sepsis can include any one or a combination of the following:

CONFUSION OR DISORIENTATION

SHORTNESS OF BREATH

HIGH HEART RATE

FEVER, OR SHIVERING, OR FEELING VERY COLD

EXTREME PAIN OR DISCOMFORT

CLAMMY OR SWEATY SKIN

AM I AT RISK?

Anyone can get an infection, and almost any infection can lead to sepsis. People with chronic conditions such as diabetes, lung disease, cancer, and kidney disease, are at higher risk of developing infections that can lead to sepsis. Sepsis also more commonly occurs in:

- Adults 65 or older
- People with weakened immune systems
- Children younger than one

The most frequently identified germs that cause infections that can develop into sepsis include *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph), *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), and some types of *Streptococcus*.

HOW CAN I GET AHEAD OF SEPSIS?

1. Talk to your doctor or nurse about steps you can take to prevent infections. Some steps include taking good care of chronic conditions and getting recommended vaccines.
2. Practice good hygiene, such as handwashing, and keeping cuts clean and covered until healed.
3. Know the symptoms of sepsis.
4. ACT FAST. Get medical care IMMEDIATELY if you suspect sepsis or have an infection that's not getting better or is getting worse.

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials [ASTHO]. State Policies Aim to Improve Sepsis Prevention and Treatment.http://www.astho.org/StatePublicHealth/State-Policies-Aim-to-Improve-Sepsis-Prevention-and-Treatment/09-19-19/?utm_source=Informz&utm_medium= email&utm_ campaign=Informz. Accessed September 2019.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). What is Sepsis. https://www.cdc.gov/sepsis/what-is-sepsis.html. Accessed September 2019.
3 Rory Staunton Foundation. Sepsis protocols. https://rorystauntonfoundationforsepsis.org/rorys-regulations-full-legal-document/. Accessed September 2019.
4 Kahn J M, Davis B S, Yabes J G. Association Between State-Mandated Protocolized Sepsis Care and In-hospital Mortality Among Adults with Sepsis. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2738290. JAMA. 2019; 32:3
5 New Jersey; Hospital Licensing Standards. https://www.nj.gov/health/legal/documents/adoption /8_43G-14.9%20Sepsis%20Protocols.pdf. Accessed September 2019.

Health Advisories and Travel Notices

Severe Pulmonary Disease Associated with Using E-Cigarette Products

CDC Travel Health Notices

CDC End of NY state Measles outbreak

Select Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	Pinellas		YTD Total		Pinellas County Annual Totals		
	September 2019	September 2018	Pinellas 2019	Florida 2019	2018	2017	2016
A. Vaccine Preventable							
Measles	0	0	1	2	7	0	0
Mumps	1	0	2	124	2	2	0
Pertussis	3	2	26	303	32	36	18
Varicella	1	2	22	753	67	24	74
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	3	22	1	2	2
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	0	0	4	69	9	7	7
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	1	16	1	0	0
C. Enteric Infections							
Campylobacteriosis	28	22	231	3539	264	207	178
Cryptosporidiosis	8	1	52	494	34	40	27
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	28	530	4	6	5
E. coli Shiga Toxin (+)	3	1	19	600	14	9	4
Giardiasis	5	1	42	829	41	45	41
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	1	27	1	0	2
Salmonellosis	21	19	141	5173	233	278	188
Shigellosis	2	1	18	1111	40	26	19
D. Viral Hepatit							
Hepatitis A	19	14	369	2688	113	1	2
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	2	1	16	303	14	25	28
Hepatitis B, Acute	7	2	57	669	52	51	70
Hepatitis C, Acute	5	1	72	757	40	30	49
E. VectorBorne/Zoonoses							
Animal Rabies	1	0	1	101	1	3	3
Rabies, possible exposure	7	10	105	3319	130	140	131
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	3	0	0	1
Dengue	0	0	2	245	0	0	2
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	4	1	15	130	12	17	16
Malaria	0	0	5	38	3	0	0
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Zika Virus Disease	0	0	3	0	2	5	23
F. Others							
Chlamydia	434	353	3399	n/a	4422	4188	4133
Gonorrhea	141	117	1049	n/a	1439	1574	1566
Hansen's Disease	0	0	0	16	0	0	0
Legionellosis	5	6	22	335	37	28	20
Mercury Poisoning	0	0	1	14	1	1	0
Syphilis, Total	39	20	346	n/a	438	382	400
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	20	6	160	n/a	190	160	188
Syphilis, Early Latent	16	12	135	n/a	158	128	146
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0	5	n/a	2	5	2
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	3	2	46	n/a	88	89	64
Tuberculosis	1	2	13	n/a	33	28	31
Vibrio Infections	2	1	18	208	6	11	8

*YTD up to October 9, 2019. n/a = not available at this time

Reportable diseases include confirmed and probable cases only. All case counts are current and 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 STARS is continually updated. Please note, data from the previous month takes up to an additional month or more to be correctly updated.