

The Pump Handle The Pump Handle



"I had an interview with the Board of Guardians of St. James's parish, on the evening of Thursday, 7th September, and represented the above circumstances to them. In consequence of what I said, the handle of the pump was removed on the following day."

John Snow, 1855

April 2016 Topics

- Rabies Update – Laura Cronquist
- Disease Control Is Amassing a Small Army of Students – Tracy Miller
- Zika Virus Update – Laura Cronquist
- New Disease Control Employee!



Rabies Update

As of May 16, 2016, nine animals have tested positive for rabies in North Dakota, including five skunks, three cows, and one cat. Six animals tested positive for rabies in 2015, but over the previous five years, an average of 31 animals per year tested positive for rabies. North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) surveillance data from the past 20 years shows that skunks make up the majority of animal rabies cases in the state.

While all species of mammals are susceptible to rabies virus infection, over 90% of all animal rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) occur in wild animals. Skunks, bats, raccoons, and foxes are the animals that most often get rabies in the United States. Skunks and raccoons are particularly important as reservoirs for the rabies virus, which is the rationale behind a state law prohibiting North Dakotans from keeping a skunk or raccoon in captivity.

One of the best ways to protect yourself and others from rabies is by making sure that your pets are vaccinated. Contact your veterinarian to find out whether your pets are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations. Another way to protect yourself from rabies is by avoiding wild animals. Do not feed or handle them, even if they seem friendly. Do not feed or put water for your pets outside, as this may attract wild animals or stray animals to your home. If you notice a wild

animal or a stray animal acting strangely, contact your local animal control officer or the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) to report it.



Disease Control is Amassing a Small Army of Students

The Division of Disease Control has partnered with Masters of Public Health (MPH) students from four different schools to help them achieve their school requirement of participating in an internship project. The purpose behind these internships is to help MPH students apply their public health knowledge and skills to real world problems and to identify and propose strategies in an effort to improve health for all North Dakotans.

The following students will be working with Disease Control this summer:

- ***University of North Dakota***
 - **Benjamin Larson**
 - Evaluate adolescent immunization recalls.
 - **Ellen Lu**
 - Evaluate infant and childhood immunization recalls.
 - **Michael Strinden**
 - Evaluate flu and pneumonia deaths in North Dakota.
- ***North Dakota State University***
 - **Enija Shiwakoti**
 - Assess the prevalence of HPV and HPV related diseases in North Dakota.
- ***University of Montana***
 - **Erika Baldry**
 - Evaluate clinically diagnosed and syndromic surveillance influenza in North Dakota.
- ***Des Moines University***
 - **Patrick Flanagan**
 - Improve childhood influenza case information.
 - **Waylon Tomac**
 - Implement tick surveillance and identification in North Dakota.



Zika Virus Update

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) received confirmation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that a pregnant woman who traveled to Puerto Rico tested positive for Zika virus. This is the first North Dakota resident to test positive for Zika. The woman did not have symptoms, but was tested because she traveled to an area where Zika virus was being transmitted while she was pregnant.

Testing is recommended for all pregnant women who traveled to an area with local transmission of Zika virus while pregnant or within eight weeks of conception. Pregnant women can be tested within 2-12 weeks of possible exposure. Additionally, testing is recommended for anyone who develops at least one sign or symptom of Zika virus disease (i.e., fever, rash, joint pain, muscle pain, or red eyes) after possible exposure from recent travel or sexual contact.

Zika virus is spread primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. The two mosquito species known to carry Zika virus are not found in North Dakota. For an up-to-date list of destinations with confirmed Zika transmission, please visit www.ndhealth.gov/disease/zika. Zika virus can also be transmitted sexually from an infected man to his sex partners and from a pregnant woman to her fetus during pregnancy or around the time of birth.

As there is no vaccine for Zika, the best way to protect oneself from Zika virus infection is to avoid mosquito bites in areas with local Zika virus transmission. Pregnant women should not travel to an area with active mosquito-borne transmission of Zika virus. All travelers should protect themselves from mosquito bites when traveling by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, using an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent, and staying in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside. Men returning from an area with Zika should prevent the possible transmission of Zika virus to sexual partners. More information about sexual transmission of Zika can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/transmission/sexual-transmission.html>.

For more information about Zika virus, please contact Laura Cronquist at lcronquist@nd.gov or 701.328.2378.



New Disease Control Employee!

★Name: Jenny Galbraith

Title: Epidemiologist I

Education Background: I graduated from the University of Mary in 2016 with my degree in Biology.

Past Experience: I have been at Century High School for the last four years coaching their Science Olympiad team. I also work as a Stage Manager for Sleepy Hollow Summer Theatre.

Family/Hobbies: My hobbies include theatre and playing the flute and piano. I also love traveling, and have been to Europe twice.



Terry Dwelle, MD, MPHTM, State Health Officer

Kirby Kruger, Director, Division of Disease Control; Chief of Medical Services Section

Tracy K. Miller, PhD, MPH, State Epidemiologist

Kelsie Howes, Managing Editor