

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

August 2009 Topics

- First Human Case of West Nile Virus Reported in North Dakota
- Influenza H1N1 Update
- Norovirus Outbreak at a Morton County Restaurant
- Epis on the Move!



First Human Case of West Nile Virus Reported in North Dakota

As of Sept. 4, 2009, one human West Nile virus (WNV) infection has been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). One hundred fifty-six cases have been reported nationwide from 25 states.

2009 West Nile Virus Samples and Testing			
Beginning: Monday, June 01, 2009			
Through: Friday, September 04, 2009			
	North Dakota Tested to Date*	North Dakota Positive to Date* ^â	Nationwide Positive ^Â
Humans	346	1	156
Horses	8	0	64
Dead Birds	2	0	374
Mosquito Pools	0	0	3817

* Results may change pending further investigation

^â Confirmed and Probable Cases

^Â Reported to CDC

At this same time last year, 413 human West Nile virus cases had been reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 34 states, including North Dakota. For nationwide WNV data, visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm.

West Nile virus educational materials are available for 2009! In addition to the colorful brochures, posters and 16-page activity book for kids, mosquito repellent towelettes are available for order by city officials and other outdoor event hosts in limited quantities. If you are interested in the repellent and feel that your event may qualify for free towelettes, contact Michelle or Tracy at 701.328.2378.

Ordering any of the above materials (excluding the towelettes) is free and easy; go to www.ndhealth.gov/WNV/Materials/. Additionally, a kid-friendly tick brochure and bookmark have been developed. Call Michelle or Tracy at 701.328.2378 if you have questions or would like to place an order.



Influenza H1N1 Update

The NDDoH continues to monitor novel influenza A (H1N1) infections in the state. As of Sept. 3, 2009, about 600 samples had been tested for the novel H1N1, with 106 confirmed cases from 22 counties. The median age of reported cases is 18 years, and the ages have ranged from 1 to 64 years. Five cases have required hospitalization.

2009 Influenza H1N1 Confirmed Case Summary			
Total Cases		Age Information	
		Range	Cases
Gender		<10	14
Female	62	10-19	42
Male	44	20-29	26
		30-39	11
Hospitalized	5	40-49	9
		50-59	3
Deaths	0	60 and over	1

As students are filling classrooms, it is important to remember influenza prevention measures. The best way to prevent the spread of influenza is to get vaccinated every year. Additional ways to help reduce the spread of influenza are to wash your hands frequently, avoid close contact with those who are ill, cover your coughs and sneezes, throw your tissues in the trash and stay home when you are sick.

For more information about influenza, visit the NDDoH website at www.ndflu.com.

H1N1 Vaccine Update

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met July 29, 2009, to make recommendations for use of vaccine against novel H1N1 that focused on defining priority groups if the vaccine is available only in limited quantity.

Vaccination efforts are designed to help reduce the impact and spread of novel H1N1. The committee recommended the vaccination efforts focus on five key populations. When vaccine is first available, the committee recommended that programs and providers try to vaccinate:

- Pregnant women.
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months.
- Health-care and emergency medical services personnel.
- All people ages 6 months through 24 years.
- People ages 25 through 64 who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

The committee further recommended that once the demand for vaccine for these prioritized groups has been met at the local level, programs and providers should begin vaccinating everyone ages 25 through 64. Current studies indicate the risk for infection among people 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. Therefore, as vaccine supply and demand for vaccine among younger age groups are being met, programs and providers should offer vaccination to people older than 65.

The vaccine for novel H1N1 is projected to be available in mid to late October. All public health departments and some private health-care providers will be administering the novel H1N1 vaccine. Keep in mind that novel H1N1 vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine and is intended to be used alongside seasonal flu vaccine to protect people. Seasonal flu and novel H1N1 vaccines may be administered on the same day.

For more information about novel H1N1, visit www.ndflu.com or call the NDDoH at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378. Questions regarding laboratory testing may be directed to the Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272.



Norovirus Outbreak at a Morton Country Restaurant

In August 2009, the NDDoH received complaints of gastrointestinal illness involving individuals who ate at a restaurant in Mandan, N.D.

Two parties complained of gastrointestinal illness following dining at the same restaurant in Mandan, N.D. Five of eight individuals in one party became ill with vomiting and diarrhea, with two being seen at an emergency room. Eleven of 17 were ill with similar symptoms in the second party. The total number of individuals exposed at the restaurant is unknown.

Three stool samples submitted to the Division of Laboratory Services tested positive for norovirus. A possible source of contamination in food or drink menu items served at the restaurant was not determined. One staff member reported being ill with vomiting and

diarrhea for one week prior to the incident and worked the evening of the reported illnesses. This employee was involved in clearing and resetting tables, making salads, seating patrons and giving them menus, and assisting servers with food and beverages.

Infected people may shed norovirus in the stool for up to two or three days and as long as seven days after diarrhea stops. Ensuring that people with gastrointestinal illness not have contact with prepared foods and practicing proper hand hygiene may prevent future outbreaks. For further information on foodborne illness to report a foodborne outbreak, please contact the NDDoH at 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180.



Epis on the Move!

The office of the Division of Disease Control has officially moved out of the Judicial Wing at the Capitol Complex and relocated to the building where the Division of Laboratory Services is located. Our new mailing address is:

**North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Disease Control
2635 East Main Avenue
PO Box 5520
Bismarck, ND 58506-5520**

Although we have a new mailing address, all mail sent to our old address will be forwarded to our new building. All employee telephone numbers will remain the same. For further information, please contact the NDDoH at 701.328.2378.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Abby Pierce, Michelle Feist, Lindsey VanderBusch, Julie Wagendorf, Kirby Kruger, Tracy Miller and Sarah Weninger. For questions, suggestions or inquiries, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Sarah Weninger of the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2366 or by email at sweninger@nd.gov.

The pump handle picture in the title was obtained from the website www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html.



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

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