

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

December 2008 Topics

- Influenza and Antiviral Resistance Update
- Chickenpox Outbreak
- Norovirus Activity Update
- Meet the New Disease Control Epidemiologists



Influenza and Antiviral Resistance Update

As of Jan. 3, 2009, a total of 17 laboratory-identified influenza cases have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). Of the 17 reported cases, 71 percent were identified as type A (n=12) and 29 percent as type B (n=5). In addition, of the 12 influenza A cases, two have been sub-typed with one identified as type A H1 and the other as type A H3.

In December 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released interim recommendations for the use of antivirals during the 2008-2009 influenza season. These recommendations were issued because preliminary data indicated a high prevalence of influenza A H1N1 viruses resistant to the antiviral medication oseltamivir.

The interim recommendations provide guidelines for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza if oseltamivir resistant A H1N1 viruses are circulating widely in a community or if the prevalence of the resistant virus is unknown. Please visit www.ndflu.com/News/NewsReleases.aspx to view the complete interim recommendations.

For more information about influenza, influenza activity or to order free educational materials, visit the NDDoH influenza website at www.ndflu.com.



Chickenpox Outbreak

Since September 2008, 23 cases of varicella (chickenpox) have been reported to the NDDoH from Stark County. A majority of the cases attend two schools in Stark County. Seventy percent of the cases do not have a history of varicella vaccination; none of the cases have a history of two doses of varicella vaccine.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends two doses of varicella vaccine be given to all children (first dose given at ages 12 to 18 months and the second dose given at ages 4 to 6 years). Starting with the 2008-2009 school year, all children are required to have two doses of varicella vaccine at school entry. Children in child-care must have a dose of varicella vaccine at ages 12 to 18 months and children in first through fourth grade need to have at least one dose of varicella vaccine. Other children who are attending school and have only received one dose of varicella vaccine may not be adequately protected and should consider receiving a second dose. Physician diagnosed history of varicella disease or laboratory evidence may be accepted as proof of immunity to varicella. Parental diagnosis or report of varicella disease should not be accepted as evidence of immunity.

During a varicella outbreak of five or more cases, varicella vaccine, if administered within 72 hours (or as long as 120 hours) following exposure may prevent disease or decrease its severity. A child without a history of two doses of vaccine or disease should be vaccinated according to ACIP recommendations. A child with a history of only one dose should receive a second dose.

Chickenpox is a mandatory reportable condition in North Dakota. All chickenpox cases should be reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). Cases may be reported via telephone toll-free at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378 or online at <http://www.ndhealth.gov/Disease/Disease%20Reporting/DiseaseCard.aspx>.



Norovirus Activity Update

Since Oct. 1, 2008, two norovirus outbreaks have been reported to the NDDoH from long-term care facilities. One norovirus outbreak in a long-term care facility was reported at the same time last year.

A viral gastroenteritis outbreak is considered consistent with norovirus if ALL of the following are met:

- Vomiting is present in more than 50 percent of cases.
- The incubation period is from 24 to 48 hours.
- The duration of illness is from 12 to 60 hours.
- No bacterial pathogens are isolated from stool.

Report all outbreaks of suspected acute viral gastroenteritis using the online report form located on the NDDoH Division of Disease Control website at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Gastroenteritis/. For more information about norovirus surveillance in North Dakota, call Sarah Weninger at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378.



Meet the New Disease Control Epidemiologists

Please help us welcome two new epidemiologists to the Division of Disease Control!

Name: Becky Wahl

Title: Epidemiologist

Education Background: BS with major in biology and minor in spanish

Past Experience: Claims benefit specialist and provider relations research specialist

Family/Hobbies: I have been married 6 years. My husband, Jim, and I have 2 daughters, Megan (4) and Brooke (2). I enjoy scrapbooking, reading and exercising in my spare time.

Name: Lindsey Kubischta

Title: Epidemiologist

Education Background: BS, microbiology, North Dakota State University and MPH in epidemiology, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Campus, May 2009

Past Experience: Intern during the summer of 2008 in the Division of Disease Control

Family/Hobbies: I will be getting married Feb. 21, 2009, so spending time with my new husband will comprise most of my time outside of work, but otherwise I love to hang out with friends, go shopping and generally relax.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Michelle Feist, Julie Wagendorf, Kirby Kruger, Tracy Miller, Abbi Pierce, Becky Wahl, Lindsey Kubischta 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.



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