

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

February 2007 Topics

- *Salmonella* Tennessee Outbreak Linked to Peanut Butter
- Influenza Update
- National Public Health Week is April 2 through 8, 2007
- National Infant Immunization Week is April 21 through 28, 2007



***Salmonella* Tennessee Outbreak Linked to Peanut Butter**

Public health officials in multiple states, with the assistance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S Food and Drug Administration, are investigating a multi-state outbreak of *Salmonella* serotype Tennessee infections. An epidemiologic study showed that consumption of Peter Pan peanut butter and Great Value peanut butter were both statistically associated with illness and therefore the likely source of the outbreak. Product testing has confirmed the presence of the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Tennessee in opened jars of peanut butter obtained from ill persons.

One presumptive positive case of salmonella linked to peanut butter has been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health. Further testing is underway at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to confirm the suspected case.

The case reported to the Department of Health is a child younger than 10 who has been ill with diarrhea, abdominal cramps, vomiting and fever. The child, who reportedly had eaten Peter Pan brand peanut butter before becoming ill, was not hospitalized and is recovering.

For more information about the multi-state salmonella outbreak and the number of cases reported nationwide, visit www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Outbreak/Salmonella.htm and www.cdc.gov/salmonella.



Influenza Cases on the Rise

As of February 28, 2007, a total of 869 laboratory-identified influenza cases have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). Forty-one counties have reported influenza activity so far this season. Of the 869 reported cases, 91 percent were identified as type A (n=790), 1 percent as type B (n=11) and 8 percent unknown type (n=68).

In addition, of the 790 influenza A cases, fifteen have been sub-typed; eight have been identified as H1 and seven as H3. One influenza A (H1) isolate has been characterized and was found to be a strain matching the component of the 2006-2007 vaccine. There have been no influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported to the NDDoH so far this season.

Currently, influenza activity is high in the state and the NDDoH urges everyone to help prevent the spread of influenza by:

- Getting a flu shot – vaccination is the best defense
- Washing hands frequently, especially before touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Covering your cough and sneezes
- Staying home when you are sick

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



National Public Health Week is April 2 through 8, 2007

National Public Health Week is April 2 through 8, 2007. The theme this year is, "Take the First Step." For information about resources and planning events visit www.nphw.org/.



National Infant Immunization Week is April 21 through 28, 2007

National Infant Immunization Week is April 21 through 28, 2007. Visit www.cdc.gov/nip/events/niw/#glance for ideas about activities and events to promote the benefits of immunizing infants against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Michelle Feist, Molly Sander, Julie Goplin, Tracy Miller and Kirby Kruger. For questions, suggestions or inquiries, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Julie Goplin of the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2375 or by email at jgoplin@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

Terry Dwelle, MD, MPHTM, State Health Officer
Craig Lambrecht, MD, MHSA, MBA, MPH, Chief, Medical Services Section
Kirby Kruger, Director, Division of Disease Control