

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 2011 Topics

- Influenza Update
- New Pertussis Diagnostic Testing Tutorial
- Reporting Pregnancy in HIV-Positive Women
- April is STD Awareness Month
- New Disease Control Employee!



Influenza Update

The North Dakota Department of Health continues to monitor influenza infections in the state. As of Feb. 26, 2011, 864 laboratory identified influenza cases had been reported from 46 counties. Of the 864 cases, the median age of all reported influenza cases is 19.3 years, and the ages have ranged from 1 week to 96 years. Two influenza-related deaths have been reported in North Dakota. One was in a child younger than 10 years and the other in an individual older than 60.

2010-11 Influenza Confirmed Case Summary					
Total Cases	864	Age Information		Influenza Virus Strains	
		Range	Cases	Type	Cases
Gender		<10	304	A, 2009 H1N1	49
Female	441	10-19	142	A, H1	0
Male	423	20-29	167	A, H3	48
		30-39	77	A, Unspecified	661
Hospitalized	34	40-49	65	B	104
		50-59	45	Unknown	2
Deaths	2	60 and older	64	Total	864

In response to public questions, the following information is provided to share with patients concerned about H1N1. H1N1 is a type of influenza that is circulating this flu season in the general population. In most cases, H1N1 causes the same symptoms as other types of influenza including fever, cough and sore throat. Some differences identified over the last few years are that H1N1 seems to cause illness in children and young adults more often than in the older population, and it doesn't appear to be any more severe than other seasonal influenza strains. People with H1N1 are recommended to do the same things that people who are diagnosed with seasonal influenza are told to do. While everyone should be vaccinated to help prevent getting sick from influenza, if you are already sick it is important to cover your coughs and sneezes, wash your hands often and stay home when sick to prevent getting others sick.

For more up-to-date information on influenza in North Dakota, visit www.ndflu.com. Case counts and epidemiologic information are updated weekly on this site.



New Pertussis Diagnostic Testing Tutorial

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released new tutorial videos demonstrating the correct technique for collecting pertussis testing samples. The most common sample collected is a nasopharyngeal swab, which can be a difficult sample to collect accurately. The videos explain both the nasopharyngeal and aspirate collection method. The tutorial videos can be found at www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/index.html. For any specific collection questions or for questions on testing methods, please contact the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Laboratory Services, at 701.328.6272.



Reporting Pregnancy in HIV-Positive Women

Nearly all cases of HIV in children occur because of mother-to-child transmission. The CDC has concluded that without antiretroviral therapy, nearly 25 percent of HIV-positive mothers will pass the virus on to their child. This risk drops to less than 2 percent when antiretroviral therapy is used. Recommendations for the management of HIV during pregnancy and other information can be found at the Centers for Disease Control website at <http://cdc.gov/hiv/topics/perinatal/index.htm>.

In North Dakota this past year, there have been multiple instances of inadequate, late or no notification of HIV-positive, pregnant women to the North Dakota Department of Health. The incidence of children born to HIV-positive mothers is low in North Dakota and such uncommon events should be reported quickly.

The Division of Disease Control can be notified of this condition by the following two methods:

- Filling out and submitting the online disease report card from the Division of Disease Control's website at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/reportcard/.
- Calling the Division of Disease Control directly at 701.328.2378.

For more information about HIV or reporting HIV-positive mothers, call the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378.



April is STD Awareness Month

April is National Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Awareness Month, an observance created to increase awareness about STDs, including their transmission, prevention and treatment. STDs continue to be a major health threat in the United States, especially among adolescents and young adults.

Preliminary data indicate 2,272 cases of chlamydia and 161 cases of gonorrhea were reported to the NDDoH in 2010. Of these totals, 74 percent of chlamydia cases and 63 percent of gonorrhea cases occurred among people ages 15 to 24. Chlamydia in North Dakota has increased over the past five years by 24 percent, from 1,803 reported cases in 2006 to 2,272 reported cases in 2010.

Throughout the month of April, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MTV, Kaiser Family Foundation, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and other partners nationwide, are supporting National STD Awareness Month with the “GYT: Get Yourself Tested” campaign to inform young people about STDs, encourage and normalize testing for STDs, and connect young people to testing centers.

Additional information about STD Awareness Month and GYT11 is available at www.cdc.gov/std/sam/default.htm. North Dakota STD statistics can be found at www.ndhealth.gov/STD/default.htm.



New Disease Control Employee!

Please join us in welcoming Jane Wolforth as a new employee to the Division of Disease Control!

Name: Jane Wolforth

Title: Field Epidemiologist, Bismarck

Education Background: I have a B.A. in Economics, and a Master’s in Public Health in health policy, both from the University of Illinois. I also have completed courses in mountaineering from the National Outdoor Leadership School in Alaska (not entirely relevant, but just a fun fact).

Past Experience: My public health experience includes an MPH from the University of Illinois and an extensive amount of health policy design and implementation within the women’s health field along with adolescent sexual health education. My public health interests include health economics and informatics and health disparities within the AI/AN population.

Family/Hobbies: I have three brothers (all are still in Chicago). My hobbies include piano, painting, outdoor sports and Mexican food.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Lindsey VanderBusch, Abbi Pierce, Craig Steffens, Julie Wagendorf, Tracy Miller and Kirby Kruger. 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.



Terry Dwelle, MD, MPHTM, State Health Officer
Kirby Kruger, Director of the Division of Disease Control and Chief of the Medical Services
Section
Tracy K. Miller, MPH, State Epidemiologist