

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 2012 Topics

- HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium and Hepatitis C Training Workshop: April 10-12, 2012
- Influenza Update
- April is STD Awareness Month
- Enhanced Rabies Surveillance in Southwest North Dakota
- World Tuberculosis Day



HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium and Hepatitis C Training Workshop: April 10-12, 2012

The 2012 HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium will be held April 11 and 12, 2012, at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck, N.D. A preconference hepatitis C training workshop will be held at the Radisson on April 10, 2012.

The symposium will include both plenary and breakout sessions, and the following topics will be presented:

- HIV/STDs/TB/Viral hepatitis in North Dakota
- Support group development
- New Hepatitis C treatment options
- Sex, drugs and HIV
- Racial makeup of TB clients
- Aging of HIV patients
- Rapid hepatitis C testing

- Men who have sex with men partner services
- Advances in TB
- Expedited partner therapy in North Dakota
- Men's sexual health

The audience for the symposium includes all health-care and substance abuse professionals who provide services to individuals with HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis or viral hepatitis. The symposium will provide an opportunity to receive education and resources to improve the capacity to provide these services.

Prior to the symposium, there will be a hepatitis C training workshop on April 10, 2012, at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck, N.D. This training is targeted to health educators, HIV/STD counselors and testers, medical providers, substance abuse counselors, case managers, support group leaders, patients and other health professionals who will provide education, support and advocacy for people and populations affected by hepatitis C.

The topics presented at the Hepatitis C Advocate training will include:

- The liver.
- Hepatitis C transmission and prevention.
- Diagnostic tools.
- Symptoms and disease progression.
- Disease management.
- Treatments.
- Complementary medicine.

Continuing education credits are being requested for the HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium and the hepatitis C training workshop from the North Dakota Board of Nursing, North Dakota Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners and the North Dakota Board of Social Workers. The registration form, conference brochure and nomination form for awards of excellence can be found at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Hepatitis/Training/HepC.htm. The registration deadline is March 23, 2012.

For more information, please contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180.



Influenza Update

As of March 2, 2012, a total of 86 laboratory-identified influenza cases have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) from 15 counties. Eighty-three cases were identified as Influenza A and three as Influenza B. Ten cases have been further subtyped at the Division of Laboratory Services, and all have been confirmed as Influenza A H3N2. Currently influenza activity is increasing statewide. This would be an opportune time for anyone not vaccinated for flu to do so. Flu vaccine is plentiful and more vaccine has been distributed in the United States this season than past influenza seasons.

The NDDoH influenza website is updated weekly with the latest influenza data. For more information about influenza, the surveillance program or to order free educational materials, visit the NDDoH influenza website at www.ndflu.com.



April is STD Awareness Month

April is National Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Awareness Month, an observance created to increase awareness about STDs including 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 2,426 cases of chlamydia and 248 cases of gonorrhea were reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) in 2011. These data indicate a 1 percent increase in chlamydia when compared to 2,405 cases reported in 2010 and a 22 percent increase in gonorrhea when compared to 204 cases reported in 2010. Of the cases reported in 2011, 74 percent of chlamydia cases and 58 percent of gonorrhea cases occurred among people ages 15 to 24. In the past five years, chlamydia and gonorrhea has increased in North Dakota by 31 percent and 35 percent respectively.

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.

For more information about STD Awareness Month, GYT and ordering free campaign materials, visit www.cdcnpin.org/stdawareness/. North Dakota STD statistics can be found at www.ndhealth.gov/STD/default.htm.

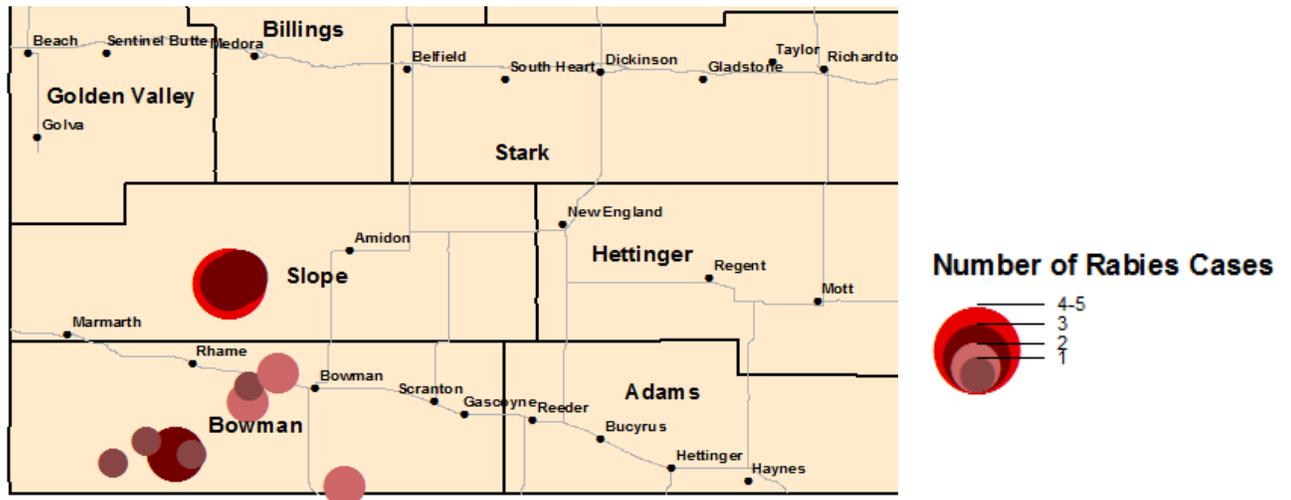


Enhanced Rabies Surveillance in Southwest North Dakota

On January 13, 2012, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) issued a news release regarding two skunks and an unvaccinated dog that were found to be positive for rabies in Bowman County since Nov. 28, 2011. These instances of rabies were considered to be unusual by the NDDoH because reports of animals testing positive for rabies generally are sporadic. Following the news release, three additional skunks tested positive from the Bowman area.

From January 13 to February 20, 2012, the NDDoH has been working with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the USDA Wildlife Services to conduct enhanced surveillance and testing in this region. During that time, a total of 35 animals have been collected from Bowman and Slope Counties. Twenty-six of the animals were skunks, and the remaining nine were raccoons. None of the raccoons tested positive for rabies. Of the 26 skunks, 15 (57%) have been found to be positive. These positive skunks were found in both Bowman and Slope counties (Image 1).

Image 1. Rabies Positive Animals in Bowman and Slope Counties, North Dakota, November 2011 – February 2012.



Rabies is a viral disease that affects mammals. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system that ultimately leads to disease in the brain and death. Rabies is most commonly transmitted through a bite from a rabies-infected animal. The saliva and brain tissue of an infected animal contains the rabies virus. Scratches, open wounds or mucous membranes that come into contact with saliva or brain tissue of a rabid animal also could constitute an exposure to rabies. Rabies is almost always fatal if prompt medical care is not sought after an exposure to a rabid animal.

It is important to note that cases of animals testing positive for rabies occurs all throughout the state of North Dakota. It is important to take steps to prevent rabies no matter where your location. Rabies can be prevented by avoiding contact with wild animals. Wild animals should not be fed, handled or allowed to take up residence near your home, farmstead or livestock. Wild animals should not be kept as pets. It is illegal in North Dakota to keep a skunk or raccoon as a pet. Pets should be kept from having contact with wild animals and should be vaccinated against rabies. It is relatively inexpensive to vaccinate a pet compared to the cost of treating a person who has been exposed to rabies.

Information about rabies can be found on the NDDoH website at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Rabies/.



World Tuberculosis Day

March 24, 2012, is Annual World Tuberculosis (TB) Day. Established by the World Health Organization in 1982, World TB Day is intended to raise awareness of the devastating health and economic consequences of tuberculosis disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) joins the global Stop TB partnership with the slogan “Stop TB in my lifetime.” This slogan is a call to all people around the world to help eliminate this deadly disease. TB patients are stopping TB by taking all of their anti-TB medication. Health-care workers are stopping TB by recognizing the symptoms of TB

and providing prompt diagnoses and treatment. Communities are stopping TB by sharing information to help prevent the disease and get treatment to those who need it.

People at risk for getting TB include close contacts of others with active TB; people from countries where TB is more common; people who live or work in residential group settings, such as prisons and nursing homes; and those with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes. Symptoms of pulmonary TB disease may include a cough that lasts more than three weeks, night sweats, unexplained weight loss, loss of appetite and fatigue. The NDDoH recommends that anyone experiencing these symptoms should be evaluated by a physician immediately.

There were eight cases of TB disease in North Dakota in 2011. This corresponds with a lower rate of disease than the national rate. With the help of the citizens of North Dakota, TB elimination in our state is possible.

www.cdc.gov/tb/events/WorldTBDay/default.htm

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Sarah Weninger, Lindsey VanderBusch, Julie Wagendorf, Alicia Lepp, Craig Steffens, 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 e-mail 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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