

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

January 2006 Topics

- Pump Handle Survey
- Influenza Update



Pump Handle Survey

The North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Disease Control's monthly electronic newsletter, *The Pump Handle*, is now three years old. The purpose of *The Pump Handle* is to provide brief summaries of Disease Control activities, current events and interesting case investigations or instances.

This issue of *The Pump Handle* is dedicated to our readers. We are evaluating the usefulness of the information provided in this newsletter and would appreciate your feedback by completing the four-question survey located at the link below. *Thank you!*

[Pump Handle Survey Link](#)



Influenza Update

As of Jan. 30, 2006, a total of 120 influenza cases have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) from 21 counties; Barnes, Bowman, Burleigh, Cass, Dickey, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Kidder, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Sargent, Stark, Stutsman, Traill, Walsh, Ward and Williams. At this time last year, more than 1,300 human influenza cases had been reported to the NDDoH. Last year's flu season peaked the week ending Feb. 5, 2005.

Of the 120 reported influenza cases, 90 percent were identified as type A, 3 percent as type B and 7 percent as unknown A or B. Twenty-one influenza type A viruses were identified as H3N2 subtypes. The age group with the most number of cases is adults age

55 and older. There have been no reported influenza-associated pediatric deaths so far this season.

Remember: It is NEVER too late to get the flu shot!

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

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Julie Goplin, Michelle Feist, 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@state.nd.us.

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
Craig Lambrecht, MD, MPH, Chief, Medical Services Section
Kirby Kruger, Director, Division of Disease Control