

# 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

## July 2004 Topics

- Pertussis Update
- West Nile Virus Surveillance
- Chlamydia On the Rise in North Dakota



### **Pertussis Update**

As of August 10, 2004, 407 cases of pertussis have been identified in North Dakota since June 22, 2004. Of these, 349 have been laboratory-confirmed and 58 have been epidemiologically-linked cases of pertussis. The majority of cases (about 50 percent) are in children 19 years and younger. Information about pertussis and reported cases can be found on the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), Division of Disease Control website at [www.health.state.nd.us/disease/](http://www.health.state.nd.us/disease/).

Pertussis information, treatment and testing recommendations for health-care providers have been provided through the North Dakota Health Alert Network (NDHAN). This information is available at [www.ndhan.gov/](http://www.ndhan.gov/).



### **West Nile Virus Surveillance**

On July 27, the NDDoH reported the first positive human West Nile virus (WNV) case for 2004. The patient is between the ages of 20 and 29 and is a Mercer County resident. A second individual tested positive for WNV about one week later. The individual is a male between the ages of 50 and 59 who resides in Burleigh County. Neither individual was hospitalized. The news release regarding these cases can be viewed at [www.health.state.nd.us/](http://www.health.state.nd.us/). As of August 10, 2004, 341 dead birds and 260 live bird serum samples have been submitted to the North Dakota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for testing. Eleven dead birds and 17 bird serum samples have tested positive for WNV. Forty-two horses have been tested for WNV infection; all have been negative.

<b>West Nile Virus Surveillance Summary, North Dakota*</b>			
		<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Dead Birds</b>	<b>Total Tested</b>	537	313
	<b>WNV +</b>	46	9
<b>Horses</b>	<b>Total Tested</b>	69	31
	<b>WNV +</b>	0	0
<b>Humans</b>	<b>Total Tested</b>	57	382
	<b>WNV +</b>	1	1

\*As of July 27, 2004

Human WNV cases have been reported in 24 states. As of August 10, 2004, 495 human cases nationwide have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The NDDoH again is providing antibody testing at no charge on suspected human arboviral infections. Additional information about testing criteria/requirements is available at [www.ndwnv.com/Surveillance/TestingCriteria.htm](http://www.ndwnv.com/Surveillance/TestingCriteria.htm) or by calling the Division of Microbiology at 701.328.6272.

Information about WNV in North Dakota is available at [www.ndwnv.com](http://www.ndwnv.com).



### **Chlamydia On the Rise in North Dakota**

The CDC has supported screening programs for *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections in women since 1988. Chlamydia screening programs in North Dakota expanded beyond the family planning program in 1993. As of 2000, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have mandated reporting of chlamydia cases.

Case rates following initiation of chlamydia screening and treatment programs have resulted in increases in case detection and reporting. From 1987 through 2002, the reported rate of chlamydia infection among women nationwide increased from 78.5 cases to 455.4 cases per 100,000 population (*Chlamydia Prevalence Monitoring Project Annual Report, 2002*). North Dakota has experienced a 32 percent increase of chlamydia cases in the past year. In 2003, 1,655 cases of chlamydia were reported in the state compared to 1,254 cases in 2002. A news release providing information about North Dakota chlamydia case rates can be viewed under the “Hot Topics” heading at [www.health.state.nd.us/disease/](http://www.health.state.nd.us/disease/).

Improved reporting, screening and treatment programs; the development and implementation of nucleic acid amplification tests, which are more sensitive than other types of screening tests; and actual disease increase account for the increase of chlamydia cases nationwide.

For more information about national chlamydia statistics and screening and treatment guidelines, go to [www.cdc.gov/nchstp/dstd/chlamydiaInfo.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/dstd/chlamydiaInfo.htm).

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*The pump handle picture in the title was obtained from the website [www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html).*



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