

# 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 2009 Topics

- Three *Salmonella* Outbreaks in North Dakota, June 2009
- Influenza H1N1 Update
- West Nile Virus Update
- Meet the New Disease Control Epidemiologist
- Epis on the Move!



### **Three Salmonella Outbreaks in North Dakota, June 2009**

On June 15, 2009, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) received a call from a physician in Bismarck, N.D., who reported seeing patients with diarrheal illness after attending either a family reunion in Wilton, N.D., or a wedding in Washburn, N.D., on June 13, 2009. Upon further investigation, it was learned that the meals served at the two events were catered by the same unlicensed caterer. On June 23, 2009, the NDDoH received further complaints of illness associated with attending a wedding in McClusky, N.D., on June 20, 2009. This wedding also was served by the caterer from the previous two outbreaks.

As of Aug. 1, 2009, 47 of the 55 (85%) Wilton reunion attendees interviewed had reported onset of diarrheal illness within three days following the event. At the reunion, both a lunch and a dinner were served. Twelve individuals were diagnosed with *Salmonella* Montevideo from this outbreak, of which seven were hospitalized and have since recovered. Several food items were collected from both meals for laboratory testing. None was positive. Preliminary analysis of the outbreak data showed potato salad to be statistically associated with illness. Information collected indicates that the potatoes and eggs were prepared the night before the event in the caterer's home.

As of August 1, 2009, 183 attendees of the wedding in Washburn, N.D., were interviewed; 32 of 183 (17%) became ill. Thirteen individuals were diagnosed with *Salmonella* Montevideo from this outbreak. Two individuals were hospitalized and have since recovered. Analysis of the outbreak data showed ground beef served as taco meat was statistically associated with illness. The ground beef tested positive for *Salmonella* Montevideo.

As of August 1, 2009, 218 attendees of the wedding in McClusky, N.D., were interviewed; 86 people (39%) became ill. Seven individuals were diagnosed with *Salmonella* Montevideo from this outbreak. Shredded beef and noodle salad samples from this event tested positive for *Salmonella* Montevideo. Analysis of the outbreak data showed noodle salad to be statistically associated with illness.

The type of *Salmonella* that caused these three outbreaks was the cause of an outbreak in North Dakota in 2007 associated with baby chicks originating from a hatchery in Iowa. The caterer for these three events lives on a farm with baby chicks also originating from the same Iowa hatchery. Environmental sampling of the caterer's kitchen and baby chicks was performed and laboratory results are negative. Cross contamination from the farmyard to the kitchen is one possible source of contamination that the health department is investigating.



### **Influenza H1N1 Update**

The NDDoH continues to monitor novel influenza A (H1N1) infections in the state. Through August 6, about 480 samples had been tested for the novel H1N1, with 66 confirmed cases from 15 counties. The median age of reported cases is 18 years, and the ages have ranged from 0 to 57 years. Two cases have required hospitalization.

| <b>2009 Influenza H1N1<br/>Confirmed Case Summary</b> |    |                 |       |
|---|----|-----------------|-------|
| Total Cases   |    | Age Information |       |
|   |    | Range           | Cases |
| Gender  |    | <10             | 7     |
| Female  | 40 | 10-19           | 30    |
| Male  | 24 | 20-29           | 13    |
|   |    | 30-39           | 7     |
| Hospitalized  | 2  | 40-49           | 6     |
|   |    | 50-59           | 3     |
| Deaths  | 0  | 60 and over     | 0     |

### **H1N1 Vaccine Update**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met July 29, 2009, to make recommendations for use of vaccine against novel H1N1 that focused on defining priority groups if the vaccine is available only in limited quantity.

The committee recommended the vaccination efforts focus on five key populations. Vaccination efforts are designed to help reduce the impact and spread of novel H1N1. When vaccine is first available, the committee recommended that programs and providers try to vaccinate:

- Pregnant women.
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age.
- Health-care and emergency medical services personnel.
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age.
- People ages 25 through 64 who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

The committee further recommended that once the demand for vaccine for these prioritized groups has been met at the local level, programs and providers should begin vaccinating everyone ages 25 through 64. Current studies indicate the risk for infection among people 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. Therefore, as vaccine supply and demand for vaccine among younger age groups is being met, programs and providers should offer vaccination to people older than 65.

Keep in mind that novel H1N1 vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine and is intended to be used alongside seasonal flu vaccine to protect people. Seasonal flu and novel H1N1 vaccines may be administered on the same day.

For more information about novel H1N1, visit [www.ndflu.com/swineflu](http://www.ndflu.com/swineflu) or call the NDDoH at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378. Questions regarding laboratory testing may be directed to the Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272.



**West Nile Virus Update**

As of July 28, 2009, no West Nile virus (WNV) cases in humans, birds or horses had been reported to the NDDoH. For more information about WNV, visit the NDDoH website at [www.ndhealth.gov/wnv](http://www.ndhealth.gov/wnv). Twenty-six cases have been reported nationwide from 13 states.

| 2009 West Nile Virus Samples and Testing |                              |                                  |                       |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Beginning: Monday, June 01, 2009         |                              |                                  |                       |
| Through: Wednesday, July 28, 2009        |                              |                                  |                       |
|  | North Dakota Tested to Date* | North Dakota Positive to Date* â | Nationwide Positive Â |
| Humans                                   | 137                          | 0                                | 26                    |
| Horses                                   | 2                            | 0                                | 6                     |
| Dead Birds                               | 2                            | 0                                | 121                   |
| Mosquito Pools                           | 0                            | 0                                | 814                   |

\* Results may change pending further investigation  
 â Confirmed and Probable Cases  
 Â Reported to CDC

At this same time last year, 62 human West Nile virus cases had been reported to the CDC from 19 states, including North Dakota. For nationwide WNV data, visit [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm).

West Nile virus educational materials are available for 2009! In addition to the colorful brochures, posters and 16-page activity book for kids, mosquito repellent towelettes are available for order by city officials and other outdoor event hosts in limited quantities. If you are interested in the repellent and feel that your event may qualify for free towelettes, contact Michelle or Tracy at 701.328.2378.

Ordering any of the above materials (excluding the towelettes) is free and easy; go to [www.ndhealth.gov/WNV/Materials/](http://www.ndhealth.gov/WNV/Materials/). Additionally, a kid-friendly tick brochure and bookmark have been developed. Call Michelle or Tracy at 701.328.2378 if you have questions or would like to place an order.



### **Meet the New Disease Control Epidemiologist**

Please help us welcome a new epidemiologist to the Division of Disease Control!

**Name:** Tatia Hardy

**Title:** Vaccines for Children Coordinator

**Education Background:** BS, Biology, University of Mary, May 2008

**Past Experience:** Medcenter One NICU and OB/GYN, autopsy assistant for State Medical Examiner

**Family/Hobbies:** I am originally from Rolla, N.D. In my spare time, I like to travel, read, run and meet new people.



### **Epis on the Move!**

The office of the Division of Disease Control will be moving out of the Judicial Wing at the Capitol Complex and will be moving to the building where the Division of Laboratory Services is located. Our new mailing address will be: North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, 2635 East Main Avenue, PO Box 5520, Bismarck, ND 58506-5520. We will be leaving our current location August 31, 2009. Although we will have a new mailing address, all mail sent to our current address will be forward to our new building. All employee telephone numbers will remain the same. Be on the lookout for more information!

*Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Lindsey VanderBusch, Julie Wagendorf, Kirby Kruger, Tracy Miller and Sarah Weninger. 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](mailto:sweninger@nd.gov).*

*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).*



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