

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 2013 Topics

- West Nile Virus Death Reported in North Dakota
- Cyclosporiasis Outbreak in the United States
- Importance of Reporting Bat Sightings Inside Facilities
- STD Treatment Guide App Available



West Nile Virus Death Reported in North Dakota

On August 13, 2013, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) announced the state's first West Nile virus-related human death in 2013. The case was a female resident of the southeastern region of the state and was older than 60. The death was one of the 16 West Nile virus (WNV) cases reported to the state health department from 10 counties as of August 13, 2013. The news release about this case and others can be viewed at www.ndhealth.gov/wnv/News/.

In addition to the human cases, WNV has been detected in five other people through blood donor screening. All donated blood in the United States is screened for WNV. These donors are not considered to be WNV cases because they do not have any symptoms. Three birds and 13 mosquito pools were also found to be positive. Detection of WNV in blood donors, birds, mosquito pools and other animals indicates that WNV transmission is occurring in the state.

Nationwide, a total of 99 human infections have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of August 6, 2013. For nationwide WNV data, visit www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html.

West Nile virus activity is updated Wednesday mornings each week on the North Dakota Department of Health website at www.ndhealth.gov/wnv.



Cyclosporiasis Outbreak in United States

As of August 12, 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been notified of 539 cases of *Cyclospora* infection from 19 states. Currently North Dakota does not have a case linked to this outbreak. The analysis conducted by Iowa and Nebraska indicated that the outbreak in those states was linked to a salad mix. Trace-back investigation has confirmed that the salad mix was supplied to restaurants in Iowa and Nebraska by Taylor Farms de Mexico. The investigation has not implicated consumer packages sold in grocery stores. The company has suspended production and shipment of any salad mix, leafy green or salad mix components from its operations in Mexico to the United States. It is not yet clear if cases from other states are part of the same outbreak.

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by a microscopic parasite, *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. People can become infected with *Cyclospora* by consuming food or water that is contaminated with the parasite. In the United States, foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis have been linked to various types of imported fresh produce. Symptoms of cyclosporiasis begin an average of seven days after becoming infected and may include watery diarrhea, weight loss, cramping, bloating, nausea and fatigue.

For more information about the outbreak of Cyclospora, visit www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/outbreaks/investigation-2013.html.



Importance of Reporting Bat Sightings Inside Facilities

In July 2013 the North Dakota Department of Health received a report of a number of bats in a facility in which people were living and sleeping. Upon investigation it was determined that the bats were caught and removed from the facility and no one had been exposed to the bats.

This instance of bat sightings highlights the importance of reporting sightings of bats inside facilities to state or local health departments to allow for evaluation of possible rabies exposures, the capture and testing of the bats for rabies and remediation of the facility, if necessary. Bats are a known reservoir for rabies in the United States and are the most common source of human rabies infections acquired in the U.S. Situations that qualify as an exposure to rabies from a bat include any direct contact with a bat or finding a bat in the same room as a person who might be unaware that a bite or direct contact had occurred (i.e., finding a bat in a room with a sleeping person, previously unattended child, mentally disabled person or intoxicated persons).

To report bat sightings inside facilities, contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.2378. For more information about bats and rabies, visit www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/index.html.



STD Treatment Guide App Available

CDC's Division of STD Prevention has launched a mobile application that provides quick access for health-care professionals to the current edition of the STD Treatment Guidelines. The STD treatment guide app is an easy-to-use reference that helps health-care providers identify and treat patients for STDs. The STD treatment guide app combines information from the current STD treatment guidelines as well as MMWR updates. The app includes information on the diagnosis

and treatment of 21 STDs and also contains treatment guidelines for individuals who suffered sexual assault. The app also includes the complete version of the current STD treatment guidelines and the booklet “A Guide to Taking a Sexual History.” It can be downloaded for free on Apple devices from iTunes and for Android devices from Google Play. More information about this app can be found at www.cdc.gov/std/std-tx-app.htm.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Alicia Lepp, Sarah Weninger, 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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