

# The Pump 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 2017 Topics

- 2017 West Nile Virus Update – Laura Cronquist
- Yellow Fever Vaccine Update – Lexie Barber
- Increase in Syphilis Cases in North Dakota – Shari Renton
- NDDoH Tick Surveillance Program and Tickborne Diseases in North Dakota – Laura Cronquist
- 2017 North Dakota & Minnesota HIV.STD.TB.Viral Hepatitis Symposium – Lindsey VanderBusch
- Changes to North Dakota Public Health Microbiology Laboratory – Kirby Kruger



## 2017 West Nile Virus Update

As of August 22, 2017, there have been 29 West Nile virus (WNV) disease cases reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). The cases have been identified in Barnes, Bottineau, Burleigh, Cass, Griggs, LaMoure, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Pierce, Richland Stark Walsh and Williams Counties. Twelve of the 29 cases have been hospitalized. Positive mosquito pools have been identified in Burleigh, Cass, Grand Forks, Ramsey, Stark, Ward and Williams Counties. Additionally, Cass County and Grand Forks County have reported WNV positive dead birds. Nationwide, a total of 314 cases of WNV in humans have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 33 states as of August 22, 2017.

More information on WNV can be found on the NDDoH WNV website at [www.ndhealth.gov/wnv/](http://www.ndhealth.gov/wnv/).



### **Yellow Fever Vaccine Update**

Sanofi Pasteur, the only manufacturer of yellow fever vaccine (YF-Vax) licensed in the United States, has announced that its supply of YF-Vax is depleted in the United States due to delays in production until the middle of 2018. Sanofi Pasteur has worked with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make STAMARIL<sup>®</sup> (Yellow Fever Vaccine [Live]), available in the United States through the Expanded Access Investigational New Drug Application (IND) program. Given the IND restrictions, a limited number of clinical sites can participate in this program. Sanofi Pasteur has selected Sanford Medical Center in Fargo as the STAMARIL<sup>®</sup> administration site for North Dakota. Once YF-Vax is no longer available at your facility, patients in need of yellow fever vaccine should be referred to Sanford Medical Center Fargo at the address below.

Sanford Travel Clinic  
736 Broadway N  
Fargo ND 58102  
701-234-2353

For more information on YF-VAX vaccine availability and the vaccine supply situation, please visit <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellow-fever-vaccination-clinics/search>.



### **Increase in Syphilis Cases in North Dakota**

Syphilis rates have continued to rise in North Dakota, with a 42 percent increase in the number of cases from 2015 (42 cases) to 2016 (63 cases). As of July 2017, a total of 36 cases have been reported. Individuals that are sexually active and are a man who has sex with men, living with HIV, or have partners who have tested positive for syphilis should be tested regularly. All pregnant women should be screened for syphilis at their first prenatal visit.

There has been a rise in the number of syphilis cases reported among men who have sex with men (MSM), with 65 percent of male cases reporting this as a risk factor. The NDDoH recommends annual screening among MSM and encourages providers to discuss the use of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among those that test positive for syphilis and others who are sexually active. PrEP is a medication, which if taken as directed, can reduce the risk of HIV infection by more than 90 percent. In the United States, nearly half of syphilis cases among MSM are also living with HIV. Of those that are HIV negative, a syphilis diagnosis increases the likelihood of being infected with HIV in the future.

The shortage of Bicillin L-A<sup>®</sup> to treat syphilis is still ongoing. Until adequate quantities of Bicillin L-A<sup>®</sup> are available, report any shortages to the NDDoH. Contacting Pfizer, the sole manufacturer, may also help your agency find wholesalers with available supply. The Pfizer contact number for Pfizer is 800.533.4535.

The NDDoH has noted some individuals who are being treated for previously treated syphilis infections. To conserve Bicillin L-A<sup>®</sup> quantities and prevent overtreatment, consult with the

NDDoH before instituting treatment to establish whether or not the patient has been previously treated or not.

Refer to the most recent STD Treatment Guidelines

(<https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/default.htm>) with questions about syphilis clinical management, or contact the NDDoH, STD program by calling 800.472.2180.



### **NDDoH Tick Surveillance Program and Tickborne Diseases in North Dakota**

The NDDoH Divisions of Disease Control and Laboratory Services collected nearly 2,000 ticks during the 2017 tick surveillance season. With the help of over 20 veterinary clinics and three zoos across the state, ticks were submitted to the NDDoH for identification from April until July. The majority of ticks were *Dermacentor variabilis*, or American dog ticks (1,719). Twenty-three ticks were identified as *Ixodes scapularis* or deer ticks. Two *Amblyomma americanum*, or Lone Star ticks, were also identified. Tickborne pathogen analysis will be performed in the coming months on all submitted ticks that are suitable for testing (i.e., not engorged).

All tick-borne diseases are mandatorily reportable to the NDDoH. As of August 8, there have been 47 tick-borne disease cases from 17 counties reported to the NDDoH in 2017. Cases reported include anaplasmosis or ehrlichiosis (10), Powassan virus (1), Lyme disease (27), Rocky Mountain spotted fever (8), and tularemia (1). Ten of these cases were hospitalized.

For more information about the NDDoH Tick Surveillance Program or tick-borne diseases, please visit [www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Tickborne](http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Tickborne) or contact Laura Cronquist at [lcronquist@nd.gov](mailto:lcronquist@nd.gov) or 701.328.2378.



### **2017 North Dakota & Minnesota HIV.STD.TB.Viral Hepatitis Symposium**

Please join NDDoH and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) this September 26-28 in Fargo for the 2017 HIV, STD, TB and Viral Hepatitis Conference!

We are honored to have presentation and workshop contributions from experts at NASTAD, NYC Health Department, Harm Reduction Coalition, local public health, local community based-organizations, and more!

Highlights include presentations exploring PrEP and TasP, MSM Health, multidrug-resistant TB, syringe exchange implementation, opioid use trends, and drug user health.

Visit the registration website to register, learn more, and see the preliminary agenda at [North Dakota & Minnesota STD/HIV/TB/Hepatitis Conference 2017](http://North Dakota & Minnesota STD/HIV/TB/Hepatitis Conference 2017). (<https://www.regonline.com/ndmn2017>).

These opportunities will be submitted to the North Dakota Board of Nursing for Continuing Education Credits. This activity has been designed to meet the Minnesota Board of Nursing

A banner for the 2017 North Dakota & Minnesota STD/HIV/TB/Hepatitis Conference. The banner has a blue and purple geometric pattern on the left. The main text is in white and pink. It includes the dates September 26-28, 2017, the location Delta Hotel by Marriott Fargo, ND (formerly Ramada Inn), and the website www.regonline.com/ndmn2017. Logos for Family HealthCare, MDH (Minnesota Department of Health), and HIV-STD-TB are also present.

**Moving Forward: The Future Begins Now**  
NORTH DAKOTA & MINNESOTA STD / HIV / TB / HEPATITIS CONFERENCE  
September 26 - 28, 2017  
Delta Hotel by Marriott Fargo, ND (formerly Ramada Inn)  
Visit the conference website to register  
[www.regonline.com/ndmn2017](http://www.regonline.com/ndmn2017)  
FAMILY HealthCare  
MDH Minnesota Department of Health  
HIV-STD-TB

continuing education requirements. However, the nurse is responsible for determining whether this activity meets the requirements for acceptable continuing education.



### **Changes to North Dakota Public Health Microbiology Laboratory**

On July 1, 2017, the Division of Microbiology was created and became part of the Medical Services Section in the Department of Health. Christie Massen, Ph.D. will serve as the director. The newly created division is a result of the separation of the environmental chemistry laboratory from the microbiology laboratory. These two labs made up the former Division of Laboratory Services under the current Environmental Health Section. The separation of the laboratories is occurring as part of the creation of the new Department of Environmental Quality. The labs will continue to be co-located in the same building and provide the same services to our customers.



Kirby Kruger, Director, Division of Disease Control; Chief of Medical Services Section  
Molly Howell, MPH, Assistant Director, Division of Disease Control  
Kelsie Howes, Managing Editor