


# 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

## June 2004 Topics

- West Nile Virus Surveillance
- Online Tuberculin Skin Test Reporting 
- Campylobacter and Calving Season
- Recommendations for Rabies Exposures



### **West Nile Virus Surveillance**

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) – in conjunction with several local, state, federal and private agencies – is conducting West Nile virus (WNV) surveillance activities again this year. Surveillance activities began June 1, 2004, and include reporting and testing sick horses and dead and trapped live birds, trapping and testing mosquitoes for WNV and monitoring human illnesses. The North Dakota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (ND-VDL) at North Dakota State University is conducting the bird and horse testing, while the Division of Microbiology of the NDDoH is conducting the human testing.

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.

As of July 6, 2004, 103 dead birds and 220 live bird serum samples have been submitted to the ND-VDL for testing. Three dead birds and 17 bird serum samples have tested positive for WNV. Ten horses and 107 people have been tested for WNV infection; all have been negative.

South Dakota has reported two human WNV cases in 2004; the first case was reported June 8, 2004. Information about the South Dakota human cases is available at

[www.state.sd.us/doh/](http://www.state.sd.us/doh/). Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming also have reported human WNV cases in 2004.

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



### **Online Tuberculin Skin Test Reporting**



The North Dakota Department of Health Tuberculosis (TB) Program now accepts on-line reporting of positive tuberculin skin test (TST) results. Facilities interested in submitting positive TST results online can go to [www.ndmtb.com](http://www.ndmtb.com) and click on “Reporting Requirements” and then “Online Test Registration” to complete a Tuberculin Test Registration card. Questions related to online reporting of TSTs should be directed to TB Program staff. (For TB Program staff contact information, [click here](#).)



### **Campylobacter and Calving Season**

Reported cases of campylobacteriosis in North Dakota typically increase each year in early spring and peak during the summer. As of June 9, 2004, 39 cases have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), comparable to the 33 cases reported at this time last year. Approximately 30 percent of the cases reported thus far in 2004 have been related to exposure to farm animals, mainly cattle. The increase in cases beginning in early spring coincides with calving season and often is attributed to improper hand washing after contact with animals or animal feces.

Campylobacter is the leading cause of bacterial enteric illness in North Dakota. The causative agent, *Campylobacter spp.*, is found in all regions of the world and is responsible for many diarrheal illnesses, such as traveler’s diarrhea. Campylobacter also has been associated with handling raw poultry, eating undercooked poultry, drinking unpasteurized milk and handling kittens and puppies.



### **Recommendations for Rabies Exposures**

As of June 1, 2004, 29 animals have tested positive for rabies in North Dakota. This is comparable to the same time last year when 27 had been reported.

Animal Type	Number Positive*	
	2004	2003
Cat	2	2
Cow	2	2
Dog	2	5
Horse	1	0
Skunk	22	18

\*Year-to-date data

The Division of Microbiology provides free rabies testing on animals if human exposure to the animal has occurred. **An exposure is defined as a bite that breaks the skin or saliva that comes in contact with an open cut, sore or wound or to a mucous membrane such as the mouth, nose or eyes.** If there has been no human exposure, samples for animal rabies testing should be sent to the North Dakota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at North Dakota State University.

[Post-exposure prophylaxis](#) (PEP) may be required for humans who experience an animal exposure. If the exposure involves a wild carnivorous animal or a bat that is unavailable to be tested, the person should receive PEP. Depending on the circumstances, PEP may be deferred if the animal is available for prompt testing.

If a person is exposed to a healthy dog, cat or ferret, the animal should be either euthanized and tested for rabies or evaluated by a veterinarian to confirm that it is healthy. The animal should be confined and observed daily for 10 days. If the animal becomes ill or there is a change in behavior during the 10-day isolation period, it should be euthanized immediately and tested for rabies. The decision to initiate PEP should be based on the circumstances of the exposure and when rabies testing results will be available.

If there is no change in the animal's health during the 10-day confinement, which is verified by a veterinarian's evaluation at the end of the 10 days, the animal can be released and PEP does not need to be initiated or can be discontinued if it had been initiated.

If an unvaccinated dog, cat or ferret is exposed to a wild carnivorous animal or a bat, it should be euthanized immediately. **Rabies exposure can be reduced by properly vaccinating pets.**

An algorithm to help determine appropriate actions to follow when an exposure to an animal has occurred can be viewed by [clicking here](#). The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) provides recommendations on both pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis for people and is available at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00056176.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00056176.htm). The 2004 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control is available at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5309a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5309a1.htm).

*Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Julie Goplin, Tracy Miller, Kirby Kruger and Larry Shireley. For questions, suggestions or inquiries, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Julie Goplin of the Division of Disease Control at 701.238.2375 or by email at [jgoplin@state.nd.us](mailto:jgoplin@state.nd.us).*

*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, MPH, Chief, Medical Services Section  
Larry A. Shireley, MS, MPH, Director, Division of Disease Control