

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

March 2006 Topics

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Influenza Update

Influenza activity in North Dakota increased considerably during the month of March. Prior to March, a total of 219 influenza cases had been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). Since March 1, 2006, 895 influenza cases have been reported to the NDDoH, which brings the total to 1,114 cases so far this season. Influenza type B is the predominant type reported, with the majority of the cases in children age 19 and younger. The following table summarizes the 2005-2006 influenza cases by type and age group:

	TYPE		
	A	B	Unknown A or B
<10	126	181	31
10-19	103	280	35
20-29	57	28	2
30-39	47	7	5
40-49	43	11	1
50-59	31	8	5
60 and older	84	11	17
TOTAL	492	526	96

Since 2000, the flu seasons have peaked at the following times:

Influenza Season	Peak of Season By Week Ending:
2004-2005	Feb. 5, 2005
2003-2004	Dec. 13, 2003
2002-2003	Apr. 5, 2003
2001-2002	Feb. 23, 2002
2000-2001	Jan. 27, 2001

For weekly updates on the influenza season, go to www.ndflu.com/Data/InfluenzaSummary.aspx.

For more information about influenza and the surveillance program, visit the NDDoH influenza website at www.ndflu.com.



Norovirus Outbreak at a North Dakota Hotel

In January 2006, the NDDoH received a report of gastrointestinal illness involving individuals who attended a conference at a hotel in Minot, N.D.

The NDDoH determined that 46 (78 percent) of the 59 conference goers and kitchen staff available for interview reported illness. Symptoms reported included abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever and chills. The duration of illness ranged from five hours to 48 hours, with a median duration of 18 hours.

Two stool samples submitted to the Division of Microbiology tested positive for norovirus. A possible source of contamination in food or drink of the lunch menu and snack items served at the conference could not be determined statistically.

The staff may have been the source, as at least one ill food handler had a history of norovirus-like symptoms. The NDDoH could not definitely identify the source of the norovirus.

Infected people may shed norovirus in the stool for up to two or three days and as long as seven days after diarrhea stops. Ensuring that people with gastrointestinal illness not have contact with prepared foods and practice proper hand hygiene may prevent future outbreaks. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration added norovirus to food worker exclusion criteria in the 2005 Food Code to define prevention measures of norovirus-infected food workers, available at www.cfsan.fda.gov/~acrobat/fc05-2.pdf.



Outbreak of Mumps in Iowa

As of March 28, 2006, a total of 219 confirmed and probable cases of mumps have been reported to the Iowa Department of Public Health. Thirty-two percent of cases have occurred in college students. The majority of the cases have been vaccinated against mumps: 65 percent of cases have a history of two MMRs (measles, mumps and rubella vaccine) and 80 percent have a history of at least one MMR. To view a summary report of the mumps outbreak in Iowa, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/mumps/mumps_update_032806.pdf

Five cases of mumps were reported in North Dakota in 2005. Two of the reported cases were fully vaccinated with MMR vaccine. The reported cases were all unrelated and occurred throughout the state. North Dakota usually has only one case of mumps reported each year. No cases of mumps have been reported thus far in 2006.

The NDDoH is encouraging physicians to consider mumps when evaluating patients with an acute onset of unilateral or bilateral tender, self-limited swelling of the parotid or other salivary gland, lasting more than two days without other apparent cause. Mumps should not be ruled out in someone who is vaccinated with MMR vaccine if they have symptoms clinically consistent with mumps.

Please contact the NDDoH Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378 or toll-free at 800.472.2180 with any questions or concerns regarding this issue.



Vaccination Expedition 2006

The Greater Grand Forks Immunization Coalition is holding an Immunization Conference, titled Vaccination Expedition 2006, on May 18 and 19 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. Anyone interested in immunizations or vaccine-preventable diseases is invited to attend. To register, [click here](#).

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Julie Goplin, Michelle Feist, Molly Sander, Tracy Miller and Kirby Kruger. For questions, suggestions or inquiries, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Julie Goplin of the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2375 or by email at jgoplin@state.nd.us.

The pump handle picture in the title was obtained from the website www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html.



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