

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

November 2007 Topics

- National Influenza Vaccination Week
- Norovirus Activity Update
- Disease Control MRSA Website 
- World AIDS Day 2007
- Save the Date! HIV/STD/Hepatitis Symposium



National Influenza Vaccination Week

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the second annual National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) for the week of Nov. 26 to Dec. 2, 2007. NIVW is intended to raise awareness of the seriousness of influenza and the importance of annual vaccination and to remind people that if you have not yet been vaccinated, it is not too late.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) and the CDC held a news conference on Monday, Nov. 26, in Fargo, N.D., to kick off NIVW. Dr. Jeanne Santoli from the CDC immunization services division spoke at the news conference and was joined by Dr. Terry Dwelle, NDDoH state health officer, and Dr. John Baird, health officer with Fargo Cass Public Health. In addition, the NDDoH hosted an educational seminar on influenza immunizations that evening with Dr. Santoli as the keynote speaker. Television and radio public service announcements were aired during the month of November to promote influenza vaccination. These public service announcements can be viewed on the health department's website at www.ndflu.com/News/NewsReleases.aspx.

Currently, influenza activity in the state is low and typically does not peak until January or later. As of Nov. 30, 2007, five lab-identified influenza cases were reported to the NDDoH.

This year it is estimated that more than 132 million doses of flu vaccine will be available for use in the U.S. during the 2007-2008 flu season. Approximately 300,000 doses of flu vaccine have been shipped to North Dakota. There should be sufficient supply of vaccine this year. Therefore, anyone wanting to protect himself or herself and others from influenza should get vaccinated this year.

For more information about National Influenza Vaccination Week and influenza in North Dakota or to order educational materials, visit the NDDoH influenza website at www.ndflu.com.



Norovirus Activity Update

Since Oct. 1, 2007, one norovirus outbreak was reported to the NDDoH in a long-term care facility, compared to 16 (12 in long-term care facilities, two in assisted living facilities, one in a developmental center and one in a basic-care facility) at the same time last year.

All unusual disease clusters are reportable to the NDDoH. Report all outbreaks of suspected acute viral gastroenteritis using the online report form located on the NDDoH Division of Disease Control website at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Gastroenteritis/. Fact sheets and other resources, such as guidelines for outbreak management and environmental cleaning, also are available.

For more information about norovirus surveillance in North Dakota, call Julie Goplin at 701.328.2378.



Disease Control MRSA Website

Recent events have spurred much interest in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The NDDoH has information available for public and private health-care providers posted on the web, along with the number of cases seen each year in North Dakota. Materials and surveillance information can be found at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Info/mrsa.aspx.

For more information contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.



World AIDS Day 2007

December 1 is World AIDS Day. Established by the World Health Organization in 1988, World AIDS Day serves to further global awareness and focus prevention efforts on the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The 2007 World AIDS Day theme promoted in the United States by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is *The Power of Partnerships* and focuses on leadership. Observation of this day provides an opportunity for governments, national AIDS programs, churches, community organizations and individuals to demonstrate the importance of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

For more information about national strategies to fight the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, visit www.omhrc.gov/hivaidsobservances/world/index.html.



Save the Date! HIV/STD/Hepatitis Symposium

The NDDoH is hosting an HIV/STD/Hepatitis Symposium on April 29 and 30, 2008, at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck, ND.

Some topics include:

- Methamphetamine use and HIV/STDs
- HIV/STDs in Native American culture
- Hepatitis C treatment and management update
- HIV/HCV coinfection
- Evolution of HIV
- Alcohol and HIV/STDs
- Human Papillomavirus Vaccine

Watch for more information about registration coming soon, or contact Krissie Mayer, HIV Program manager, at 701.328.4555, or Kim Weis, STD Program manager, at 701.328.2385.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Michelle Feist, Molly Sander, Kim Weis, Krissie Mayer, Denise Larson, Julie Goplin, 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@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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