

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

October 2014 Topics

- Ebola Update
- Influenza Vaccine Update
- Second Rabies Positive Kitten out of Minot Pet Store
- Tuberculosis Update



Ebola Update

The 2014 Ebola epidemic occurring in multiple countries in West Africa (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone) is the largest in history. There have been cases occurring not only in the West African countries, but also travel related and localized transmission occurring elsewhere in the world.

As of November 28, 2014 (suspected and confirmed)

- Countries with Widespread Transmission
 - Total of 16,899 cases and 5,987 deaths
 - Liberia – 7,635 cases with 3,145 deaths
 - Guinea – 2,155 cases with 1,312 deaths
 - Sierra Leone – 7,109 cases with 1,530 deaths
- Countries with an initial case or cases and/or Localized Transmission:
 - Mali – 8 cases with 6 deaths
 - United States – 4 cases and 1 death
- Previously Affected Countries:
 - Senegal – 1 case and 0 deaths
 - Spain – 1 case and 0 deaths
 - Nigeria – 20 cases and 8 deaths

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) currently monitors travelers for fever and illness if they originate from any country with widespread transmission. A total of 11 people have been or are being monitored for development of signs or symptoms of Ebola since the North Dakota public health system began monitoring on October 10. As of Dec. 2, 2014, three persons are being actively monitored. This means that daily communication between the traveler and public health is required. The traveler checks his temperature and symptoms twice a day and reports those results to the department of health either by phone or email.

For more information on Ebola visit www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Ebola or www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html



Influenza Vaccine Update

Despite some initial delays in influenza vaccine supply, quantities are once again comparable to past years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 139.7 million doses of 2014-2015 seasonal influenza vaccine have been distributed in the United States. In North Dakota, 236,050 doses have been distributed to providers. Everyone 6 months and older is recommended to receive the flu vaccine, regardless of age or health status. Vaccination continues to be the best way to prevent influenza and protect yourself and your loved ones. Influenza vaccinations are available at physician offices, local public health units and pharmacies. The NDDoH recommends people get vaccinated as soon as possible. More early-season influenza cases have been reported than normal this year, so the flu has definitely arrived in North Dakota.



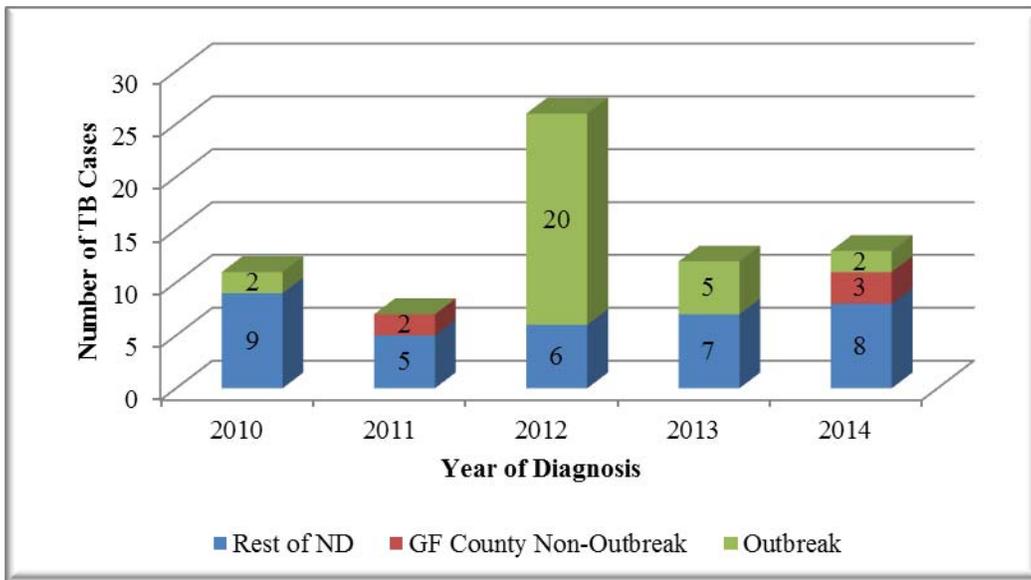
Second Rabies Positive Kitten out of Minot Pet Store

On October 31, 2014, the NDDoH received a report of a kitten that had tested positive for rabies. The kitten had been purchased at the beginning of October from a pet store in Minot and was part of a litter of six kittens. Enough time had elapsed from the purchase of the kitten to the onset of illness that the kitten was not infectious while it was in the pet store. However, the kitten was likely exposed to rabies before purchase, so it is possible the kitten's litter mates and/or parent cats may have shared the same exposure. For this reason, the NDDoH contacted all individuals who had purchased cats from the same litter and the owner of the mother cat and recommended that they be humanely euthanized and tested for rabies. Some of the owners elected to quarantine their animals for six months. To date, none of the litter mates that have been tested have tested positive for rabies.



Tuberculosis Update

As of October 31, 2014, 13 cases of tuberculosis (TB) have been reported to the NDDoH. Two of the cases can be genetically linked to the TB outbreak that occurred in Grand Forks County in 2012 bringing the total number of cases connected to the outbreak to 31. Additionally, two cases are under investigation as suspect cases as they have the same genotype, but no epidemiological link can be determined at this time. The remaining nine cases of TB have been reported from various cities within the state of North Dakota. Contact investigations continue for each of the cases to identify individuals that should be tested for TB; early detection for those that test positive for tuberculosis can help to eliminate the spread of TB disease.



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