

EPI INVESTIGATOR

The Alachua County Health Department

Fall 2008



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Editor
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World Rabies Day Sept 28

Rabies vaccine shortage supply situation

By: Isabel Anasco, RN

September 28, 2008 is World Rabies Day. It is an annual event to raise worldwide awareness of the zoonotic disease, its prevention, and how to combat reserves of the virus in animal populations. Rabies killed one person in the US in 2007 and one in the first four months of this year.



Confirmed cases of rabies in animals in the United States and Puerto Rico rose about 4.6 percent from 2006 to 2007, totaling 7,258 last year. Though about 48,000 people in the US are exposed to rabies annually, post exposure prophylaxis remains available and few die from the infection. Rabies kills about 55,000 people worldwide every year.

Unfortunately, the nation's two human-use rabies vaccine suppliers haven't kept pace with demand, and recent use could limit post-exposure prophylaxis availability. An increase in rabies infections, a swing in the human plasma market, and failure of a human-use vaccine lot to pass regulations further hurt the nation's vaccine supplies.

The CDC strongly recommends that health care providers, state and local public health authorities, animal control officials, and the public take immediate steps to ensure appropriate use of human rabies biologics.

What can we as the public do?

- The best way to prevent rabies is to make sure your pets get and stay vaccinated against rabies.
- Walk your dog on a leash. Never let them roam freely where wildlife may be present.
- Call Animal Control to take wild or stray animals away, especially if you see an animal acting strangely.
- Get your pets spayed or neutered. Pets that are fixed are

less likely to leave home, become strays, and make more stray animals.

• **Never touch unfamiliar or wild animals. Enjoy wild animals from afar.**

- Do not try to nurse sick wild animals to health. Call an animal control person or animal rescue group.
- Make sure that your trash cans and pet foods are secured so that they do not attract wild animals.

References:

www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention
www.avma.org/onlnews/javma

What's new in the Epidemiology Department

By: Isabel Anasco

We welcome Christian Campbell to the Epidemiology program. He started his

Epi internship on August 25, 2008. He will be here for the Fall semester 2008. He is currently pursuing his Masters in Public Health at the University of Florida. He will be assisting Isabel in epidemiologic investigations on Alachua county reported diseases or outbreaks. He also wants to work on a project about Florida Arboviral surveillance.

We also want to welcome again Norisse Tellman and another new intern Cuc Tran sometime in September. Norisse worked with the Influenza Surveillance Program last year and did a great job. Now she will be collaborating with Miss Tran on this project.

Thanks for all your help and welcome.

Tuberculosis update

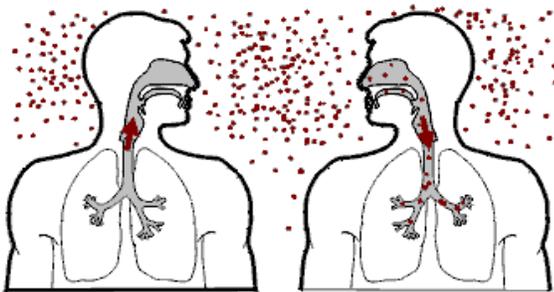
Article submitted by : Johnny Lloyd, TB Manager

Tuberculosis in the State of Florida has experienced a six percent decline in Tuberculosis Cases within the last year from 1038 Tuberculosis Cases in 2006 to 980 Tuberculosis Cases in 2007.

Alachua County however had a fifty percent increase during the same cohort period by reporting six Tuberculosis Cases in 2006 and nine Tuberculosis Cases in 2007.

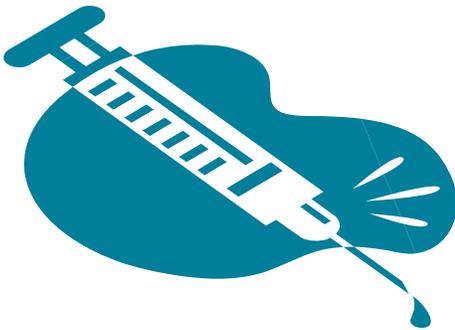
Currently Alachua County has reported eight Tuberculosis Cases (Jan.2008-Aug. 2008). However, during this same cohort period in calendar year 2007, Alachua County also reported eight Tuberculosis Cases (Jan.2007-Aug.2007). Although the number of Tuberculosis Cases reported this year is on pace with the number of Tuberculosis Cases reported in calendar year 2007 Alachua County should surpass the number of Tuberculosis cases reported in cohort year 2007 (9 cases reported).

Tuberculosis is a communicable disease transmitted by person to person by someone with active Tuberculosis Disease. Transmission occurs when a person with active pulmonary Tuberculosis or Tuberculosis of the Larynx, coughs, laughs, sneezes or sings. Symptoms of Tuberculosis are: Unusual cough lasting longer than three weeks, Low grade fever longer than three weeks, Night sweats, Coughing-up blood and Weight loss, 10% of normal weight.



Seasonal Flu

By: Isabel Anasco, RN



Influenza (flu) season is approaching. Every year in the United States, on average 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu; more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications and about 36,000 people die from the flu. There has been one case of flu reported in Florida for 2008-2009 flu season. At the time of this report, there is none in Alachua County.

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against this serious disease. Aside from the yearly flu shot, a good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu. Be aware of common flu symptoms: fever, headache, tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny nose, and body aches.

If you're sick with the flu, stay home and do not bring it to work!

Reference:

www.cdc.gov/flu

FLORIDA REPORTABLE DISEASES *Alachua County 2 year activity*

Disease Activity	2008	2007	2007	Disease Activity	cont'd	2008	2007	2007
	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Dec			Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Dec
AIDS	29	22	35	Listeriosis (02700)		0	0	1
Anthrax	0	0	0	Lyme Disease (06959)		2	1	1
Botulism	0	0	0	Lymphogranuloma Venereum		0	0	0
Brucellosis	0	0	0	Malaria (08460)		3	1	1
Campylobacteriosis (03840)	22	10	17	Measles (05590)		0	5	5
Chancroid	0	0	0	Melioidosis		0	0	0
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	1156	1071	1650	Meningitis other (32090)		1	0	1
<i>Cholera</i>	0	0	0	Meningitis, Group B Strep		0	1	3
Ciguatera	0	0	0	Meningitis Strep Pneumoniae (32020)		0	0	0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	0	Meningococcal Disease (03630)		1	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis (13680)	11	3	8	Mumps		0	0	0
Cyclosporiasis (00720)	1	3	3	Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning		0	0	0
Dengue (06100)	0	1	1	Pertussis (03390)		5	4	4
Diphtheria	0	0	0	Pesticide-Related Illness or Injury		0	0	0
Ehrlichiosis, Human Monocytic (08382)	3	4	6	Poliomyelitis		0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0	Psittacosis		0	0	0
Eastern Equine	0	0	0	Q fever		0	0	0
Non-arboviral	0	0	0	Rabies Animal (07102)		3	5	7
Other arboviral	0	0	0	Rabies, Possible Exposure (07101)		25	22	32
St. Louis	0	0	0	Ricin Toxin		0	0	0
Venezuelan Equine	0	0	0	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (08200)		1	0	0
West Nile	0	0	0	Rubella		0	0	0
Western Equine	0	0	0	SARS		0	0	0
<i>E.coli</i> 0157:H7 (41601)	0	0	0	Salmonellosis (00300)		42	32	75
<i>E.coli</i> , Other (41603)	0	0	0	Saxitoxin poisoning psp		0	0	0
Epsilon toxin of <i>Clostridium perfringes</i>	0	0	0	Shigellosis (00490)		1	8	8
Giardiasis (acute) (00710)	8	21	26	Smallpox		0	0	0
Glanders	0	0	0	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , VRSA		0	0	0
Gonorrhea	397	463	682	<i>Staphylococcus enterotoxin B</i>		0	0	0
Granuloma Inguinale	0	0	0	Streptococcal Disease grp A inva (03400)		0	2	4
H. Influenzae Pneumonia (48220)	0	2	2	<i>Streptococcal pneumoniae</i> invasive Disease, Drug resistant (04823)		4	4	10
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , inv disease	1	0	1	<i>Streptococcal pneumoniae</i> invasive Disease, susceptible (04830)		9	9	9
Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)	0	0	0	Syphilis		9	18	28
Hantavirus infection	0	0	0	Syphilis in pregnant women & neonates		0	1	1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	0	0	Tetanus		0	0	0
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	Toxoplasmosis (acute)		0	0	0
Hepatitis B Acute (07030)	0	2	3	Trichinosis		0	0	0
Hepatitis B Chronic (07032)	50	35	47	Tuberculosis		8	8	9
Hepatitis C Chronic (07054)	186	174	250	Tularemia		0	0	0
Hepatitis, Other	0	0	0	Typhoid Fever		1	0	0
Hepatitis B Perinatal (07744)	0	1	1	Typhus Fever		0	0	0
Hepatitis B (+HBsAG in preg women or child < 24 months (07039)	9	8	11	Typhus Fever Epidemic		0	0	0
Herpes Simplex Virus in < 6mo of age	0	0	0	Vaccinia Disease		0	0	0
HIV	33	33	59	Varicella ((05290)		54	2	17
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) <12 yrs	0	0	0	<i>Vibrio</i> Infection		0	0	0
Influenza Due to Novel Strains	0	0	0	<i>V. cholerae</i> Serogroup 01/ non 01		0	0	0
Lead Poisoning (94890)	3	2	2	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever		0	0	0
Legionellosis (48280)	0	2	2	Yellow Fever		0	0	0
Leptospirosis	0	0	0					

Any disease outbreak (e.g., in the community, hospital, or other institution, or foodborne or waterborne) Any grouping or clustering of patients having similar diseases, symptoms or syndromes that may indicate the presence of a disease outbreak. All cases suspected and confirmed are included in this report.

HIV Update

By: Rick Tracschel, HIV Surveillance Coordinator

Total cumulative AIDS cases reported in Alachua Co (since 9-83 thru 6-08) = 917 (447 deaths)

Total cumulative HIV cases reported in Alachua Co (since 7-97 thru 6-08) = 295

The Minority AIDS Program continues to expand its efforts to engage Faith institutions in HIV prevention efforts that includes the Statewide AME churches and hopes to include soon the Statewide Baptist Group. Local pastors Andrew McRae and Ruby Davenport have been coordinating these efforts. ACHD RMAC, Teresa White, has active coalitions not only in Alachua county, but also Putnam, Lake, Marion, and the Tri-County area of Columbia, Suwannee, & Hamilton. For example, Saturday, Sept 6, the Putnam County Faith Based HIV/AIDS Coalition participated during the 2008 Youth Explosion event in Palatka. They offered HIV Testing to anyone over 13yrs of age with Orasure and came up with a wonderful "Test your Knowledge" game for the kids to win prizes if they answered basic HIV/AIDS questions.

In preparation for Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Month in October, there will be day of prayer Saturday, Sept 27, coordinated by Pastor Wilfredo Melendez at the 'Centro de Vida Ignite'. ACHD will be conducting a night clinic 10-14, from 5:30 PM to 8 PM at the Health Dept, as part of this outreach.

Other announcements:

October 11th, Saturday - 10am till 1pm - training on "How to manage a successful Community Based organization" at the ACHD conf room- FREE.

October 18 - PRIDE Festival in Gainesville

December 1 – Meridian Behavioral World AIDS Day Luncheon

December 5 – 3rd Annual "Hats off to the Living" World AIDS Day Banquet 6:30 PM to 9 PM.

December 6 – "Stompin' Out HIV" – Community Mobilization Event- G'ville Downtown Plaza AIDS Walk, sponsored by Black AIDS Service & Education (BASE) – City Hall

2nd Annual World AIDS Day Gospel Fest in Palatka.



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Alachua County Health Department

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Disease Control Unit

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