



## “Improving Public Health in Our Community Through Cooperation”

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## Widespread Gonorrhea Resistance

By:

Mary Tollefsen, RN

CDC announced widespread gonorrhea resistance to the antibiotic known as fluoroquinolones among both heterosexuals and men who have sex with men in the United States. In Florida the following recommendations will apply:

Ceftriaxone 125mg. IM is recommended for all clients, except, Ceftriaxone 250 mg. IM is recommended for the following clients: a returning client with symptoms after treatment within 60 days, a commercial sex worker, those who have had sex with sex workers, and men who have sex with men.

All women who are pregnant are to have a test of cure 30 days post treatment (except in individual situations when the provider deems it unnecessary). In cases where follow-up treatment is necessary, retreat with ceftriaxone 125 mg. IM (except when the client needs 250 mg, as stated above). If chlamydia has not been previously treated or ruled out by nucleic acid amplified technology, then treat simultaneously with azithromycin 1 gram for presumptive chlamydia.

Many of our clinicians throughout Florida have asked about the risk of

penicillin allergies when treating patients with cephalosporins. *The Journal of Family Practice*, February 2006, Vol 55, no.2, pg 106-112 article “Cephalosporins can be prescribed safely for penicillin-allergic patients”, available at <http://www.jfponline.com/pdf%2F5502%2F5502JFP%5FAppliedEvidence1%2Epdf> states:

“For patients truly allergic to penicillin, the risk of a reaction from a cephalosporin with side chains that differ from penicillin/amoxicillin (cefuroxime, cefpodoxime, cefdinir, and ceftriaxone, as endorsed by the AAFP) is so low that use is justified and medicolegally defensible by the currently available evidence.”

For clients allergic to cephalosporins and in cases where the provider elects to not prescribe the drug give a cephalosporin provided by central pharmacy, desensitization procedures are recommended.

In the case that desensitization is not an option and the patient is a person with documented severe allergic reactions to penicillins or cephalosporins, CDC references the use of



azithromycin with the following statement:

“A single oral dose of azithromycin (2 grams) is effective against uncomplicated gonococcal infections, but CDC does not recommend widespread use of azithromycin because of concerns regarding rapid emergence of resistance, as evidenced by the increase in azithromycin MICs (minimum inhibitory concentrations) documented since 1999 in the United States and internationally.

However, azithromycin might be an option for treatment of uncomplicated gonococcal infections from any site (i.e., urogenital, anorectal, and pharyngeal).” Laboratory training for clinicians is available through the STD/HIV Prevention Training Center.

For information about these courses, you may call Calvin Doss at (813) 307-8015 ext. 4601or [http://septc.org/SEPTC/SEPTC\\_Home.html](http://septc.org/SEPTC/SEPTC_Home.html).

## Florida Health Alert Network

Article submitted by Emily J. Wilson, R.S., M.P.H.

Florida has taken steps to keep the public health community informed of situations using one of today's most powerful and comprehensive notification and alerting tools-the Florida Department of Health Emergency Notification System or FDENS. FDENS was implemented in 2006 in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions' (CDC) mandate that all states have a robust emergency communication system.

All the information disseminated through FDENS is real-time and secure, making it superior to most other systems. Users provide contact information, creating an individual profile. Because no one knows their public health partners better, the administration of users is handled at the county-level. In Alachua County, Emily Wilson and Larry Bowman are the administrators of the system. The Department of Health is also partnering with sister-agencies such as Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Department of Elder Affairs, to make sure no information relevant to the health of Florida's citizens and visitors is missed.

During routine or low priority communications, FDENS users will receive email messages. These messages might contain, for example, information about new CDC testing guidance for Avian Flu, upcoming training opportunities, or state-wide food recalls. Situations that might have a greater impact on public health would warrant a medium or high level communication. These might include a possible terrorism attack, a large scale chemical spill, or a serious state wide communicable disease outbreak. Users can set personal preferences that instruct the system how to contact them during these events. Users can choose from a variety of communications methods, such as telephone, email, fax or pager. Notifications and alerts are sent to users holding specific job roles, such as Infection Control Practitioners at the area hospitals in Gainesville, groups of users, or the entire user base.

Visit the website [www.flhan.com](http://www.flhan.com) to learn more, take the tutorial lesson or to request registration.

Public health professionals across the State of Florida and in neighboring states and territories use this tool in their preparedness operations to stay informed about situations affecting the health and safety of all Florida residents.

## Rabies Surveillance in 2007

By: Isabel Anasco, RN BSN

In Alachua County in 2007, there were 581 suspected rabies exposure, resulting in 144 animal rabies lab tests of which seven (7) were positive: 1 skunk, 3 raccoons, 2 foxes, and 1 bobcat.

There were 35 animal bites where PEP was recommended in Alachua County. The 2007 (35) rates were higher than the 2006(24) rates with a 31% increase of reported bites. Of these reported incidences, the age range was from 2 – 80+ years of age. The highest frequency (8/35) was in the 50 – 59 age group accounting for 23% of all reported cases. Males had a slightly higher rate at 51% (18/35) than females 49% (17/35) respectively. (Based on data from Merlin downloaded on 12/31/07)

## Hepatitis A vaccine update from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

By Dina Dolz, R.N.

The ACIP now recommends that hepatitis A vaccine is preferred to immune globulin to prevent hepatitis A for persons aged 12 months to 40 years who have been exposed to hepatitis A virus. The ability to use hepatitis A vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis provides public health advantages such as: induction of active immunity and longer protection, greater ease of administration, higher acceptability and availability, and cost per dose similar to immune globulin. (MMWR 10/18/07)

# FLORIDA REPORTABLE DISEASES *Alachua County 2 year activity*

Disease Activity	2007	2006	2006	Disease Activity	cont'd	2007	2006	2006
	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	Jan-Dec			Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	Jan-Dec
AIDS	33	54	57	Lyme Disease		3	0	1
Animal Bites to Humans	31	21	20	Lymphogranuloma Venereum		0	0	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	Malaria		1	1	1
Botulism	0	0	0	Measles		5	0	0
Brucellosis	0	0	0	Melioidosis		0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	16	18	19	Meningitis Strep Pneumoniae		0	2	6
Chancroid	0	0	0	Meningitis other		3	4	4
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	1511	1271	1383	Meningococcal ( <i>Neisseria Meningitidis</i> )		0	1	1
<i>Cholera</i>	0	0	0	Mercury Poisoning		0	0	0
Ciguatera	0	0	0	Mumps		0	0	0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	1	1	Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning		0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	7	13	13	Pertussis		4	1	1
Cyclosporiasis	4	0	0	Pesticide-Related Illness or Injury		0	0	0
Dengue	1	2	2	Plague		0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	Poliomyelitis		0	0	0
Ehrlichiosis, Human Monocytic	5	1	1	Psittacosis		0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0	Q fever		0	0	0
Eastern Equine	0	0	0	Rabies Human		0	0	0
Non-arboviral	0	0	0	Rabies Animal		5	11	12
Other arboviral	0	0	0	Ricin Toxin		0	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever		1	1	1
Venezuelan Equine	0	0	0	Rubella		0	0	0
West Nile	0	0	0	SARS		0	0	0
Western Equine	0	0	0	Salmonellosis		79	85	84
<i>E.coli</i> 0157:H7	0	0	0	Saxitoxin poisoning psp		0	0	0
<i>E.coli</i> , Other	1	0	1	Shigellosis		10	25	27
Epsilon toxin of <i>Clostridium perfringes</i>	0	0	0	Smallpox		0	0	0
Giardiasis (acute)	27	23	22	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , VRSA		0	0	0
Glanders	0	0	0	<i>Staphylococcus enterotoxin B</i>		0	0	0
Gonorrhea	626	650	711	Streptococcal Disease group A inva		4	4	4
Granuloma Inguinale	0	0	0	<i>Streptococcal pneumoniae</i> invasive, Disease resistant		6	14	20
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , inv disease	2	0	1	<i>Streptococcal pneumoniae</i> invasive, Disease susceptible		9	6	6
Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)	0	0	0	Syphilis		26	17	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	0	4	3	Toxoplasmosis (acute)		0	0	0
Hepatitis B Acute	4	1	1	Trichinosis		0	0	0
Hepatitis B Chronic	50	53	57	Tuberculosis		9	5	6
Hepatitis C Chronic	253	315	355	Tularemia		0	0	0
Hepatitis, Other	0	0	0	Typhoid Fever		0	0	0
Hepatitis B Perinatal	1	1	1	Typhus Fever		0	0	0
Hepatitis B surface antigen + in pregnant women or child < 24 months	9	11	11	Typhus Fever Epidemic		0	0	0
Herpes Simplex Virus in < 6mo of age	0	0	0	Vaccinia Disease		0	0	0
HIV	56	38	31	Varicella		10	NR*	NR*
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) <12 yrs	0	0	0	<i>Vibrio</i> Infection		0	1	2
Influenza Due to Novel Strains	0	0	0	<i>V. cholerae</i> Serogroup 01/ non 01		0	0	0
Lead Poisoning	4	1	1	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever		0	0	0
Legionellosis	2	3	3	Yellow Fever		0	0	0
Leptospirosis	0	0	0					
Listeriosis	0	0	0					

Any disease outbreak (e.g., in the community, hospital, or other institution; or foodborne or waterborne) indicate the presence of a disease outbreak. All cases suspected and confirmed are included in this report. Any grouping or clustering of patients having similar diseases, symptoms or syndromes that may \*Not reportable in 2006

## World Aids Day (WAD)

By: Rick Tracschel, HIV Surveillance Coordinator

World AIDS Day (WAD) commemorations were a week-long series of events, beginning with the Gainesville City Commission proclamation on Monday, November 26, and culminating on Saturday, December 1 with a 5k walk and evening banquet. Teresa White and her crew of interns, volunteers, and draftees outdid themselves with this wide range of activities.

The following data presents a picture of case reporting since 2005. There has been a significant increase in HIV case reporting for 2007 which is partially due to measurable viral loads triggering new case reports which is capturing previously unreported HIV cases that may have been diagnosed before September, 1997. The number of AIDS cases had a slight decline, Lake and Putnam had significant increases.

COUNTY Area 03	REPORTED HIV CASES (REGARDLES S OF AIDS STATUS)	REPORTED HIV CASES (REGARDLES S OF AIDS STATUS)	2005-2006 HIV PERCENT CHANGE	REPORTED HIV CASES (REGARDLES S OF AIDS STATUS)	2006-2007 HIV PERCENT CHANGE	REPORTED AIDS CASES Jan-Nov 05	REPORTED AIDS CASES Jan-Nov 06	2005-2006 AIDS PERCENT CHANGE	REPORTED AIDS CASES Jan-Nov 07	2006-2007 AIDS PERCENT CHANGE
	Jan-Nov 05	Jan-Nov 06		Jan-Nov 07						
ALACHUA	38	38	0%	56	47%	33	54	64%	33	-39%
BRADFORD	2	8	300%	4	-50%	0	3	N/A	5	67%
COLUMBIA	3	10	233%	16	60%	6	8	33%	7	-13%
DIXIE	3	1	-67%	3	200%	2	3	50%	0	-100%
GILCHRIST	3	0	-100%	0	N/A	1	0	-100%	1	N/A
HAMILTON	5	7	40%	1	-86%	3	0	-100%	1	N/A
LAFAYETTE	0	0	N/A	1	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	N/A
LEVY	5	4	-20%	3	-25%	6	3	-50%	2	-33%
PUTNAM	12	12	0%	21	75%	9	10	11%	15	50%
SUWANNEE	6	7	17%	6	-14%	1	6	500%	2	-67%
UNION	3	5	67%	10	100%	2	4	100%	3	-25%
total	80	94	0.175	121	0.287234043	63	91	0.444444444	69	-0.24175824
Area 13										
CITRUS	9	12	33%	13	8%	4	18	350%	8	-56%
LAKE	27	34	26%	46	35%	25	38	52%	45	18%
MARION	42	40	-5%	66	65%	43	45	5%	36	-20%
SUMTER	8	2	-75%	12	500%	6	3	-50%	10	233%
total	86	88	0.023255814	137	0.556818182	78	104	0.333333333	99	-0.04807692



### Alachua County Health Department

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