

EPI INVESTIGATOR

The Alachua County Health Department
Winter 2009



“Improving Public Health in Our Community Through Cooperation”

Alachua County Health Department
(352) 334-7900



Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Safe New Year



To report a disease, phone or fax the appropriate office below:

Director
Jean Munden, R.N., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Jean Munden@doh.state.fl.us
(352) 334-7903

Assistant Director
Paul Myers, MS
(352) 334-8892

Environmental Health
Director Anthony Dennis
(352) 334-7931

HIV/AIDS
Richard Willis, Surveillance
(352) 334-7968
Martha Buffington, Ryan White
(352) 334-7967

Epidemiology/Hepatitis
Isabel Anasco, R.N.
(352) 334-7981
Fax (352) 955-6464

Sexually Transmitted Disease
George Gibbs, MPH
(352) 334-7900 ext 3471 or 3470
Fax: (352) 334-8818

Tuberculosis
Gail Beard, RN
(352) 334-7988
Fax(352) 955-6464

Editor
Sheila Griffis

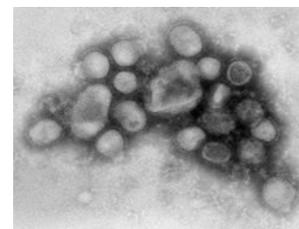
2009 H1N1 Flu up-date

By: Isabel Anasco, RN
Epidemiology/Hepatitis Coordinator

Influenza activity in the US remains high, but there are now only 25 states reporting widespread flu activity for week 47 (11/22/09-11/28/09). For week 48 (11/29/09-12/05/09) Florida moved its statewide flu activity level from Widespread to Regional and for the first time, there were no outbreaks reported.

Multiple indicators of influenza activity in Florida held on December 5, 2009 in 4 locations around Alachua County.

In Alachua County, the flu activity is at a plateau and remains sporadic. H1N1 vaccines became available in October 2009 and were given to priority groups and the first H1N1 Mass Vaccination Campaign was



Internship at Alachua County Health Department

By: Jenny Snow, Volunteer

In May 2010, I will graduate from the University of

Florida with a Masters in Public Health, with a concentration in Epidemiology. As part of the curriculum for this program, students are given the opportunity to work within their field to gain hands on experience and apply their education in exchange for course credit. For the past four months, I have been fortunate enough to work as an epidemiology intern alongside Isabel Anasco in the Infectious Disease Division at the Alachua County Health Department (ACHD). Isabel has served as the county epidemiologist at the ACHD for almost three years, and has been a wonderful mentor during my time there.

Over the years I have been given the opportunity to work within various sectors of the public health field including patient care, education, research, and even health policy. While each of these experiences has taught me a great deal, I feel that my time at ACHD has given me the chance to observe public health at its absolute finest. Never have I been anywhere in which everything I have learned could be incorporated into one place. I now have a tremendous appreciation for the cooperation and integration that exists between the various divisions within the health department and even with local hospitals and healthcare agencies. During my time at the ACHD, I have assisted with disease reporting, created trend reports, performed outbreak interviews, designed educational posters, participated in restaurant inspections, and even volunteered with the immunization department specializing in travel and foreign diseases.

My experience at the ACHD has been a valuable one and has further broadened my understanding of the role that epidemiologists and nurses play in the public health system. Furthermore, I now realize the vast importance of disease prevention education and community involvement. I have been truly impressed by the dedication and genuine compassion I have observed in every employee that I have had the opportunity to work with, and I hope to take these same qualities with me when I leave. In January, I will begin a four month internship with the Clinical and Translational Research Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I believe that my experience at the ACHD and the knowledge I have gained from working there will greatly enable me to make a significant contribution to the work they do there. Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as an intern and I look forward to using this experience to pursue my future career goals.



Area 3 Tuberculosis Program

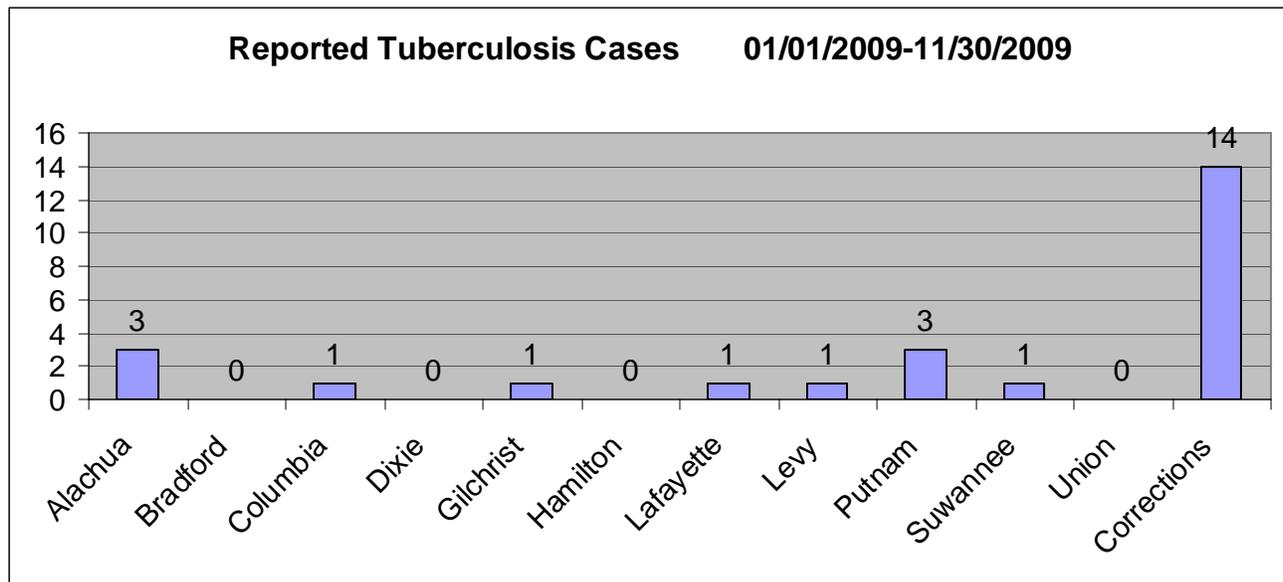
By: Johnny C. Lloyd
Area TB Coordinator

The mission of the Bureau of Tuberculosis and Refugee Health is to eliminate tuberculosis as a public health threat in Florida; and to provide culturally sensitive health services for refugees to enhance personal health status and protect Florida's public health.

Cohort year 2009 Area 3 reported twenty five active Tuberculosis Cases (see Chart) in cohort year 2008 Area 3 reported twenty six Tuberculosis Cases. However fourteen cases (56%) reported in 2009 are cases reported by the Department of Corrections.

Alachua County has reported three Tuberculosis Cases for Cohort 2009. In cohort year 2008, Alachua County reported eleven Tuberculosis Cases. Alachua County has decreased the number of Tuberculosis Cases by 73% in one cohort year.

In Cohort year 2008 the State of Florida reported 953 Tuberculosis Cases. Currently (as of 12/11/09) the State of Florida has reported 676 Tuberculosis. Chart:



In May of 2009 the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health, The Department of Corrections and Area 3 Regional Staff, Johnny Lloyd, Area TB Program Coordinator, Gail Beard, R.N., Regional TB Nurse Case Manager and Lena Heeny, R.N. TB Disease Interventional Specialist, collaborated to launch a TB Contact Investigation at the Columbia Correctional Institution in Lake City, FL., after a reported outbreak of Tuberculosis in the Facility. Two thousand nine hundred and forty nine people were evaluated (2433-inmates & 516-employees). Fourteen cases of Tuberculosis were verified as a result of this collaboration. In October 2009, Operation Trident was launched, phase II of the TB Contact Investigation that was initiated in May of 2009. During this second round of testing Two thousand eight hundred and sixty four people were evaluated (2456-inmates & 418-employee). No new cases were identified during this second round of testing.

STD Update

By: Ana Acosta, Marie Jean-Baptiste

STD DIS

Over the decades the incidence of Syphilis has fallen. In the 90's a focus on Syphilis elimination strategies were implemented. Today, many people both in the community and in healthcare fields outside of Public Health are surprised to learn that Syphilis is "still around".

Through the years progress has been made against this serious disease. However, the incidence of syphilis has been rising statewide since 2000.

According to the STD's Surveillance Morbidity Report there have been a total of 79 cases of Primary and Secondary Syphilis in Area 3 and 13*. Of these 79 cases Alachua County has the largest number of Primary and Secondary Syphilis with a total of 29 cases reported this year.

Earlier this year, the STD article for the EpiInvestigator informed readers about an increased number of Primary and Secondary Syphilis cases in the MSM population. Recently, we had a number of early cases of Syphilis among a group of middle-aged, heterosexual black men and women. The disease intervention methods implemented by the STD program proved to be successful in finding exposed individuals.

The STD Program works diligently in finding and treating cases as well as those exposed to the infection. Syphilis control activities involve identification, testing, and treatment of exposed sex partners.

By early detection and treatment of Syphilis, we can prevent the spread of this disease and alleviate the symptoms and consequences associated with the later stages of it.

*Area 3 and 13 is comprised of Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee, Union Counties.

FLORIDA REPORTABLE DISEASES *Alachua County 2 year activity*

| Disease Activity | 2009 | 2008 | 2008 | Disease Activity | cont'd | 2009 | 2008 | 2008 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|--|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Jan-Nov | Jan-Nov | Jan-Dec | | | Jan-Nov | Jan-Nov | Jan-Dec |
| AIDS | 43 | 30 | 35 | Listeriosis (02700) | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Animal Bites to Humans (07101) | 51 | 32 | 33 | Lyme Disease (06959) | | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Anthrax | 0 | 0 | 0 | Lymphogranuloma Venereum | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Botulism | 0 | 0 | 0 | Malaria (08460) | | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Brucellosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | Measles (05590) | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Campylobacteriosis (03840) | 20 | 27 | 28 | Meningitis, Group B Strep (32040) | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chancroid | 0 | 0 | 0 | Meningitis other (32090) | | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> | 1655 | 1616 | 1749 | Meningitis Strep Pneumoniae (32020) | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Cholera</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | Meningococcal (<i>Neisseria Meningitidis</i>)03630 | | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Ciguatera | 6 | 0 | 0 | Mercury Poisoning | | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) | 0 | 0 | 0 | Mumps | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Cryptosporidiosis (13680) | 12 | 13 | 13 | Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cyclosporiasis (00720) | 1 | 1 | 1 | Pertussis (03390) | | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| Dengue (06100) | 1 | 0 | 0 | Pesticide-Related Illness or Injury | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 | Plague | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ehrlichiosis, Human Monocytic (08382) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 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) | | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| Other arboviral | 0 | 0 | 0 | Ricin Toxin | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Louis | 0 | 0 | 0 | Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (08200) | | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Venezuelan Equine | 0 | 0 | 0 | Rubella | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Nile | 0 | 0 | 0 | SARS | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Western Equine | 0 | 0 | 0 | Salmonellosis (00300) | | 84 | 78 | 82 |
| <i>E.coli</i> 0157:H7 (41601) | 0 | 0 | 0 | Saxitoxin poisoning psp | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis,hme e chaff. 08382</i> | 0 | 2 | 3 | Shigellosis (00490) | | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Escherichia Coli, Shiga Toxin Producing 00800</i> | 2 | 0 | 0 | Smallpox | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>E.coli, Other (41603)</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | <i>Staphylococcus aureus, VRSA</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Giardiasis (acute) (00710) | 31 | 11 | 13 | <i>Staphylococcus enterotoxin B</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Glanders | 0 | 0 | 0 | Streptococcal Disease grp A inva (03400) | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Gonorrhea | 354 | 517 | 559 | <i>Strep pneumoniae</i> invasive Disease, Drug resistant (04823) | | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| H. Influenzae Pneumonia (48220) | 0 | 0 | 0 | <i>Strept pneumoniae</i> invasive Disease, susceptible (04830) | | 15 | 12 | 14 |
| <i>Haemophilus influenzae, inv disease</i> | 4 | 1 | 1 | Syphilis | | 29 | 16 | 17 |
| Hansen's Disease (Leprosy) | 0 | 0 | 0 | Syphilis in pregnant women & neonates | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hantavirus infection | 0 | 0 | 0 | Tetanus | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome 42000 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Toxoplasmosis (acute) | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis A | 5 | 2 | 2 | Trichinosis | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis B (+HBsAG in preg women or child < 24 months (07039) | 7 | 10 | 10 | Tuberculosis | | 3 | 10 | 10 |
| Hepatitis B Perinatal (07744) | 0 | 0 | 0 | Tularemia | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis B Acute (07030) | 1 | 1 | 1 | Typhoid Fever | | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Hepatitis B Chronic (07032) | 49 | 71 | 74 | Typhus Fever | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis C Chronic (07054) | 198 | 239 | 254 | Vaccinia Disease | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Herpes Simplex Virus in < 6mo of age | 0 | 0 | 0 | Varicella ((05290) | | 27 | 56 | 57 |
| HIV | 51 | 49 | 59 | <i>Vibrio Vulnificus</i> 00199 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Human Papillomavirus (HPV) <12 yrs | 0 | 0 | 0 | <i>V. cholerae</i> Serogroup 01/ non 01 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza A, Novel or Pandemic Strains | 90 | 0 | 0 | Viral Hemorrhagic Fever | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lead Poisoning (94890) | 5 | 3 | 3 | Yellow Fever | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Legionellosis (48280) | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |

Any disease outbreak (e.g., in the community, hospital, or other institution; or foodborne or waterborne) 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 indicate the

Worlds AIDS DAY—December 1

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) joins with federal, state and community partners in recognizing December 1 as World AIDS Day. Each year, World AIDS Day provides as an opportunity for individuals, communities, state and the nation to consider what they can do to help stop the epidemic, support those affected by this disease and remember those lost to the disease. Our State continues to be impacted by this epidemic, with an estimated 125,000 Floridians living with HIV infection.

The DOH Bureau of HIV/AIDS continues to work diligently to reduce the number of new HIV infections, increase the proportion of HIV-infected people in Florida who know they are infected and help ensure the persons living with HIV and AIDS have access to prevention, care and support services. HIV continues to affect Floridians—approximately 15 people become infected every day. In the United States, someone becomes infected with HIV every 9.5 minutes.

DOH urges all Floridians to educate themselves, know their HIV status, support those in their community battling the virus, talk about HIV/AIDS where they live, work, play, and worship. For more information about HIV/AIDS, visit www.FloridaAids.org or www.WeMakeTheChange.com or contact the Florida HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-FLA-AIDS.

On December 1st this year, for the first time, the University of Florida Gator Well Health Promotion Services, Eta Sigma Gamma, College of Health & Human Services, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars hosted an event titled “Be Responsible: Get Tested”. With the help of 49 volunteers and 22 OraSure testers, 120 students received a free HIV test, education materials and condoms.

