

# EPI INVESTIGATOR

Florida Department of Health - Alachua  
Spring 2018



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

**Alachua County Health Department**  
(352) 334-7900

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

**Administrator**  
Paul Myers, MS  
(352) 334-8892

**Environmental Health**  
Director Anthony Dennis  
(352) 334-7931

**HIV/AIDS**  
Richard Willis, Surveillance  
(352) 334-7968  
Fax (352) 334-8867

Martha Buffington, Ryan White  
(352) 334-7967

**Epidemiology/Hepatitis**  
Nadia Kovacevich, MPH  
(352) 225-4181  
Fax (352) 955-6464

**Immunizations**  
Michael Smith, RN  
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**Tuberculosis**  
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**Editor**  
Sheila Griffis



## New Funding

Submitted By: Geneva Saulsberry, RN, BSN  
Senior CHN Supervisor, ACHD

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded more than \$200 million through the [Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases \(ELC\) cooperative agreement](#) to help states, cities, counties, and territories prevent, detect, respond to, and control the growing threats posed by emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. State programs are the foundation of the U.S. public health system and are integral to the nation’s efforts to combat infectious disease threats. CDC and states work together to improve local surveillance, laboratory diagnostic capabilities, and outbreak response.

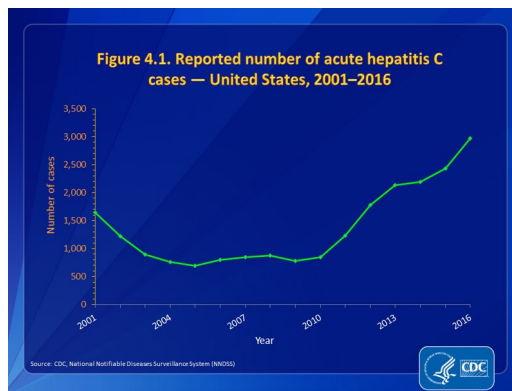
The CDC funds include \$77 million to help state health departments fight local antibiotic resistance threats. CDC is investing in every state to combat antibiotic-resistant foodborne infections and infections in healthcare facilities and communities.

“More than 23,000 people in the United States die each year from infections caused by antibiotic resistance,” said CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D. “CDC is committed to helping states and cities strengthen their ability to combat antibiotic resistance, and these funds will help state efforts to keep people safe.”

Information gathered directly from: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/p0804-200-million.html>.

## Hepatitis C Trends

Submitted by: Nadia Kovacevich and Devin Myers  
Epidemiologists at DOH-Alachua



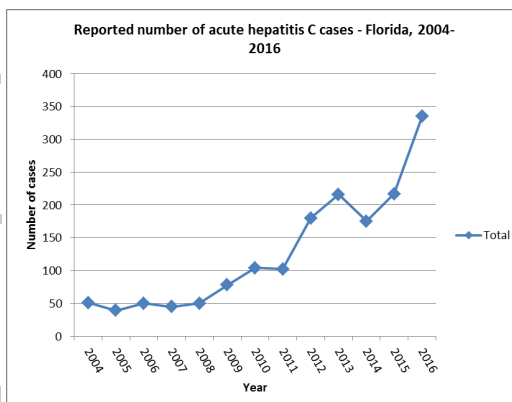
### The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) reported cases of acute hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection increased about 3.5-fold from 2010 through 2016 (from 850 to 2,967 reported cases), rising annually throughout this period. Examining annual trends beginning in 2012, reported cases of acute HCV infection increased 20.2% from 2012 to 2013 (n=1,778 and 2,138 cases, respectively), increased 2.6% to 2,194 cases in 2014, increased 11.0% to 2,436 cases in 2015, and increased 21.8% to 2,967 cases in 2016 (CDC, 2018). The increase in these cases is thought to be associated with rising rates of injection-drug use and better case reporting and follow-up. Florida has also seen a similar upward trend, which is also thought to be due to a combination of better electronic reporting and increases in injection-drug use.



### References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Surveillance for Viral Hepatitis – United States, 2016. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2016surveillance/commentary.htm>

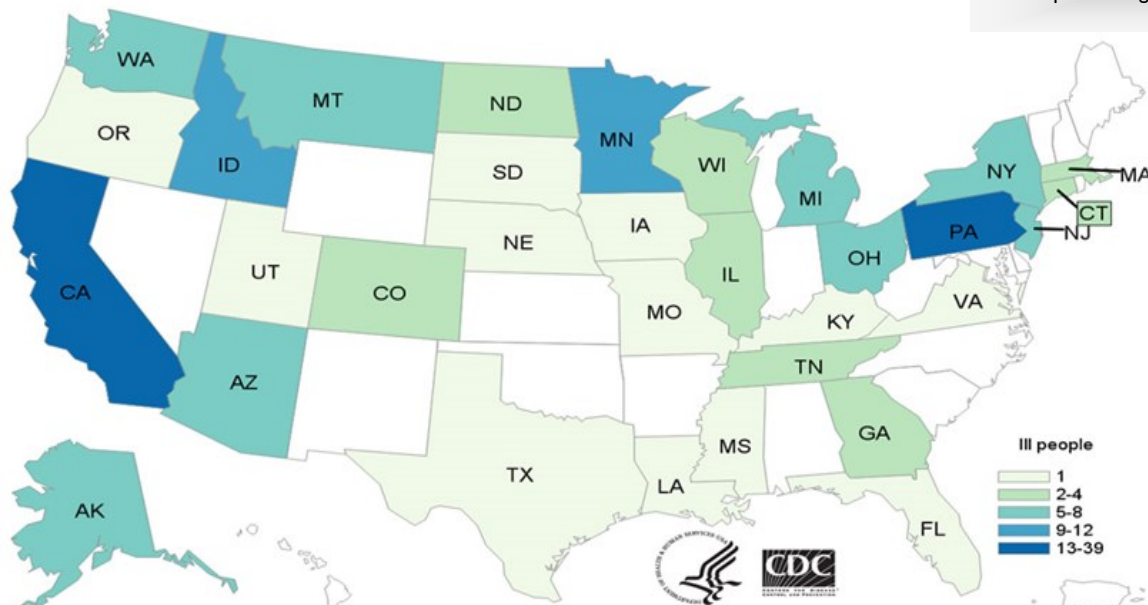


<https://www.essencefl.com/florida>

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/heppromoresources.htm>

## Multistate Outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 Infections Linked to Romaine Lettuce

Submitted by: Nadia Kovacevich and  
Devin Myers  
Epidemiologists at DOH-Alachua



People infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7, by state of residence, as of May 15, 2018

- Case Count: 172
- States: 32
- Deaths: 1
- Hospitalizations: 75

The harvest season for lettuce grown in the Yuma, Arizona region is over, and the product have extended its shelf-life for availability.

Latest updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2018/o157h7-04-18/index.html>

Resource for any current foodborne outbreaks can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/outbreaks/index.html>

## Ongoing Rabies Awareness

Submitted by: Nadia Kovacevich and  
Devin Myers  
Epidemiologists at DOH-Alachua

An animal with rabies could infect other wild or domestic animals that have not been vaccinated against rabies. All domestic animals should be vaccinated against rabies and all wildlife contact should be avoided, particularly raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats and coyotes. Rabies is a disease of the nervous system and is fatal to warm-blooded animals and humans. The only treatment for human exposure to rabies is rabies-specific immune globulin and rabies immunization. Appropriate treatment started soon after the exposure, will protect an exposed person from the disease. <http://alachua.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/epidemiology/animal-exposure-or-bite.html>

**Residents** and visitors are advised to take the following precautions:

- Keep rabies vaccinations up to date for all pets.
- Keep your pets under direct supervision so they do not come in contact with wild animals. If your pet is bitten by a wild animal, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact Alachua County Animal Services (ACAS) at 352-264-6870.
- Call ACAS to report any stray dogs in your neighborhood or private property owners can hire a nuisance wildlife trapper for removal of wildlife. For a list of wildlife trappers, visit <https://public.myfwc.com/HGM/NWT/NWTSearch.aspx>
- **Do not** handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.
- **Do not** leave food sources out for wildlife such as pet food or unsecured garbage.
- **Avoid** contact with stray and feral animals.
- **Never** adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.
- Teach children **never** to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
- Prevent bats from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools, and other similar areas, where they might come in contact with people and pets.
- Persons who have been bitten or scratched by wild or domestic animals should seek medical attention and report the injury to the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County at 352-225-4181.



Raccoon

# FLORIDA REPORTABLE DISEASES *Alachua County 2 year activity*

Disease Activity	2018	2017	2017	Cont'd.	2018	2017	2017
	Jan-Mar	Jan-Mar	Jan-Dec		Jan-Mar	Jan-Mar	Jan-Dec
AIDS	**	**	**	Meningitis, bacterial or mycotic	1	0	1
Anaplasmosis, HGA( <i>Anaplasma Phag</i> )	0	0	1	Meningococcal disease	0	0	1
Anthrax	0	0	0	Mercury poisoning	0	0	0
Botulism	0	0	0	Mumps	0	0	
Brucellosis	0	0	0	Neurotoxic shellfish poisoning	0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	5	2	54	Pertussis	0	0	0
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	1	6	Pesticide-related Illness and injury, acute	0	0	0
Chikungunya fever	0	0	0	Plague	0	0	0
Chlamydia	532	503	2194	Psittacosis (ornithosis)	0	0	0
Ciguatera	0	0	0	Q Fever	0	0	0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	2	Rabies, animal or human	0	2	2
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1	7	Rabies, possible exposure	18	13	72
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	Ricin toxin poisoning	0	0	0
Dengue	0	0	0	Rocky Mountain spotted fever and other spotted fever rickettsioses	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	Rubella	0	0	0
Ehrlichiosis, HME ( <i>Ehrlichia chafeensis</i> )	0	0	2	Salmonellosis	10	6	56
Ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis	0	0	1	Saxitoxin poisoning (paralytic shellfish poisoning)	0	0	0
<i>Escherichia coli</i> infection, Shiga toxin-producing	0	1	9	Severe acute respiratory disease syndrome associated with coronavirus infection	0	0	0
Giardiasis (acute)	1	0	12	Shigellosis	0	0	8
Gonorrhea	151	115	618	Smallpox	0	0	0
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , invasive disease in children <5 years old	3	1	1*	Staphylococcal enterotoxin B poisoning	0	0	0
Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)	0	0	0	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> infection (VISA, VRSA)	0	0	0
Hantavirus infection	0	0	0	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> invasive disease in children (drug resistant) <6 years old	0	0	0*
Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> invasive disease in children (susceptible) <6 years old	0	1	1*
Hepatitis A	1	0	2	Syphilis	11	13	44
Hepatitis B Acute	0	0	1	Syphilis in pregnant women & neonates	0	0	0
Hepatitis B Chronic	9	12	58	Tetanus	0	0	0
Hepatitis B surface antigen in pregnant women or children <2 years old	0	1	8	Trichinellosis (trichinosis)	0	0	0
Hepatitis C Acute	1	0	2	Tuberculosis (TB)	0	2	6
Hepatitis C Chronic	77	53	175	Typhoid fever ( <i>Salmonella</i> serotype Typhi)	0	0	0
Herpes B Virus, Possible Exposure	0	0	0	Typhus fever, epidemic	0	0	0
Herpes simplex virus (HSV) in infants	0	0	0	Varicella (chickenpox)	1	2	10
HIV	**	**	**	<i>Vibrio cholerae</i> type 01	0	0	0
Influenza A, novel or pandemic strains	0	0	0	<i>Vibrio cholerae</i> type Non-01	0	0	1
Lead Poisoning	3	0	5	<i>Vibrio (Parahaemolyticus, other)</i>	0	0	1
Legionellosis	1	0	3	<i>Vibrio fluvialis</i>	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	<i>Vibrio vulnificus</i>	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	1	Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non Congential	0	2	2
Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)	0	0	0				
Malaria	0	0	3				
Measles	0	0	0				

The counts include suspect, probable, and confirmed cases reported in Alachua county residents (regardless of where infection was acquired) by date reported to the Department of Health. Counts are provisional and subject to change until their respective database closes.

\* Changes to case definitions can affect the number of cases reported.

\*\*Data from the most recent calendar year (2017) are considered provisional and therefore should not be used to confirm or rule out an increase in newly reported cases in Florida. The final year-end numbers are generated in July of the following year, after duplicate cases are removed from the dataset, as is customary of HIV surveillance in the US. Statistics can be found at <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/communicablediseases/default.aspx>

◆ REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS (8AM-5PM, M-F): **352-225-4181**

◆ **After-hours and Holidays (24/7): 352-334-7900** (please listen to prompts to receive a callback).

The Epidemiology Program conducts disease surveillance and investigates suspected occurrences of infectious diseases and conditions that are reported from physician's offices, hospitals, and laboratories. Surveillance is primarily conducted through passive reporting from the medical community as required by Chapter 381, Florida Statutes. Data is collected and examined to determine the existence of trends. Our staff ensures that action is taken to prevent infectious disease outbreaks from occurring in Alachua County.

# Are You An International Traveler?

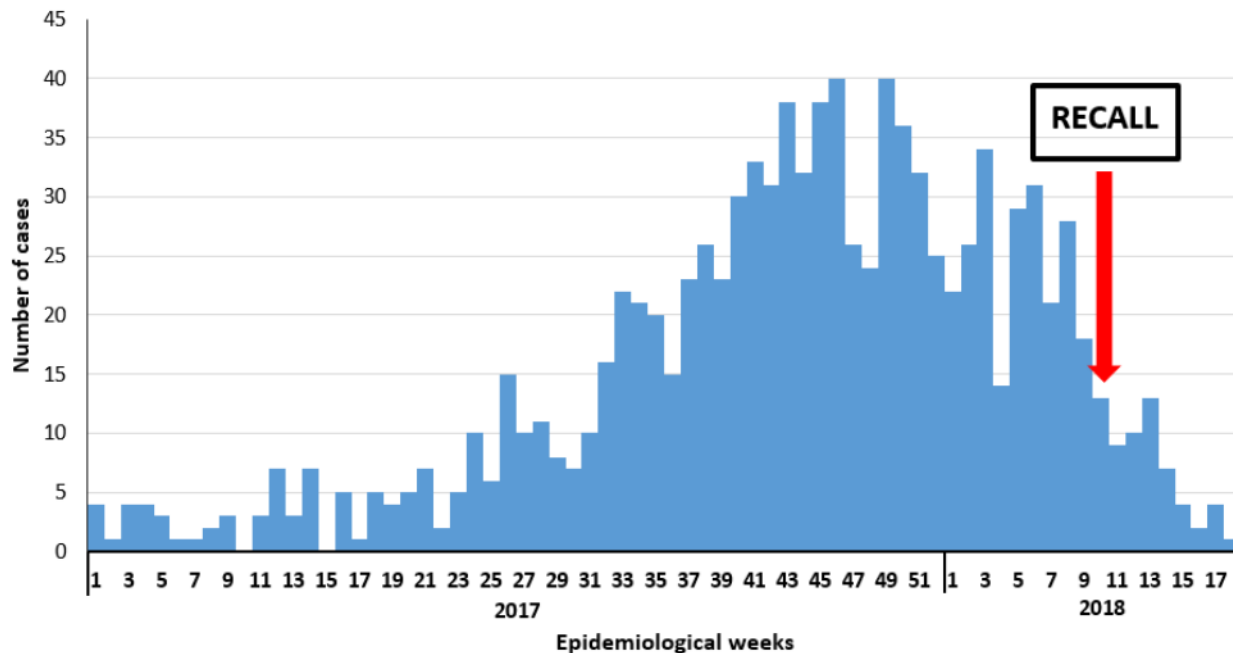
Submitted by: Michael Smith, Senior RN  
Supervisor of Immunizations, ACHD

The spring season has finally arrived! Now is the time when most people embark on both national and international vacations and travel. Did you know that aside from booking a flight, hotel, rental car, or making sure you have a passport, there is one very important thing that a lot of travelers forget. Vaccinations! When traveling to continents such as South America, Africa and various countries, there are numerous vaccine preventable diseases that can be harmful, if not fatal to the traveler. Before leaving for your destination, it is advisable to seek a Foreign Travel center at least 6 months prior and be consulted on where you are going, how long you will be there and what precautions you should take to prevent exposure to diseases specific to that area of travel. The Alachua County Health Department specializes in Foreign Travel and is certified to carry the Yellow Fever vaccine, which is a requirement when traveling to areas of the world where the Yellow Fever virus is a high risk. Other common diseases that are vaccine preventable include: Typhoid, Hepatitis A and B, Meningitis, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chicken Pox (Varicella), Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis, Japanese Encephalitis and Rabies. A helpful website to research that provides current information on all vaccines regulated by the ACIP and CDC is [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). If you are planning to travel and would like to schedule a Foreign Travel consult, please call the Alachua County Health Department at 325-334-8849 or visit the website at [alachua.floridahealth.gov](http://alachua.floridahealth.gov) to request an appointment.

# The World's Largest Listeria Outbreak

Submitted by: Nadia Kovacevich and  
Devin Myers  
Epidemiologists at DOH-Alachua

In July 2017, South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) documented an increase in laboratory-confirmed cases of listeriosis. On December 5, 2017, the South African Ministry of Health declared an ongoing listeria outbreak. On March 4, 2018, a recall was issued for ready-to-eat processed meat products manufactured at Enterprise Foods' Polokwane production facility. As of May 10, 2018, 1033 cases linked to these products have been reported.



**Figure 1: Epidemic curve of laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases by epidemiological week (numbered weeks of the year, starting with week 1 in January) listed according to date of sample collection, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 10 May 2018 (n=1 033)**

Reference:

National Institute for Communicable Diseases South Africa. (2018, May 14). NICD Listeriosis Situation Report – 14 May 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.nicd.ac.za/index.php/nicd-listeriosis-situation-report-14-may-2018/>



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