



“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:**

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Environmental Health
Director Anthony Dennis
(352) 334-7931

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Nadia Kovacevich, MPH
(352) 225-4181
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If you would like to receive the
Epi InvestiGator by email or fax,
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DOHAlachuaUpdates@flhealth.gov,
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Immunizations
Michael Smith, RN
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Sexually Transmitted Disease
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Editor
Sheila Griffis

Drug Resistant Tuberculosis

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

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by bacteria that are spread from person to person through the air. TB usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body, such as the brain, the kidneys, or the spine. In most cases, TB is treatable and curable; however, people with TB can die if they do not get proper treatment.

Sometimes drug-resistant TB occurs when bacteria become resistant to the drugs used to treat TB. This means that the drug can no longer kill the TB bacteria.

Drug-resistant TB (DR TB) is spread the same way that drug-susceptible TB is spread. TB is spread through the air from one person to another. The TB bacteria are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected.

Drug-resistant TB can occur when the drugs used to treat TB are misused or mismanaged. Examples of misuse or mismanagement include

- People do not complete a full course of TB treatment
- Health care providers prescribe the wrong treatment (the wrong dose or length of time)
- Drugs for proper treatment are not available
- Drugs are of poor quality

Drug-resistant TB is more common in people who

- Do not take their TB drugs regularly
- Do not take all of their TB drugs
- Develop TB disease again, after being treated for TB disease in the past
- Come from areas of the world where drug-resistant TB is common
- Have spent time with someone known to have drug-resistant TB disease
- The most important way to prevent the spread of drug-resistant TB is to take all TB drugs exactly as prescribed by the health care provider. No doses should be missed and treatment should not be stopped early. People receiving treatment for TB disease should tell their health care provider if they are having trouble taking the drugs.

•Health care providers can help prevent drug-resistant TB by quickly diagnosing cases, following recommended treatment guidelines, monitoring patients' response to treatment, and making sure therapy is completed.

•Another way to prevent getting drug-resistant TB is to avoid exposure to known drug-resistant TB patients in closed or crowded places such as hospitals, prisons, or homeless shelters. People who work in hospitals or health-care settings where TB patients are likely to be seen should consult infection control or occupational health experts.

TB is caused by TB bacteria that are resistant to at least one first-line anti-TB drug. Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB) is resistant to more than one anti-TB drug and at least isoniazid (INH) and rifampin (RIF). Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR TB) is a rare type of MDR TB that is resistant to isoniazid and rifampin, plus any fluoroquinolone and at least one of three injectable second-line drugs (i.e., amikacin, kanamycin, or capreomycin).

Treating and curing drug-resistant TB is complicated. Inappropriate management can have life-threatening results. Drug-resistant TB should be managed by or in close consultation with an expert in the disease.

Information received from the following source: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/drtb/default.htm>





Florida Facts

In Florida in 2017:

- 116,944 persons were living with HIV
- 4,949 persons were newly diagnosed with HIV
- 2,044 persons were diagnosed with AIDS
- The highest proportion of persons diagnosed with HIV were aged ages 20-29
- 61% of persons who received an HIV diagnosis were men who have sex with men (MSM)
- 42% of persons who received an HIV diagnosis were black
- 25% of persons living with HIV were not in care

Purpose

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) in area 3/13 is comprised of 15 counties (Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee, Union, Citrus, Lake, Marion, and Sumter). The FDOH's HIV/AIDS department seeks to prevent HIV infection in HIV-negative individuals and provide linkage-to-care services and treatments to individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Our services provide primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions for HIV/AIDS infections.

Goals

The FDOH's HIV/AIDS services aims to reduce the number of new HIV infections, link HIV-positive persons to care, and have them retained in care in order to achieve viral suppression and eliminate HIV transmission within the state of Florida.

CONTACT

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**Florida Department of Health
 Area 3/13 HIV/AIDS Services**

Gay Koehler-Sides, Martha Buffington, Catharina Appadoo, Mark Tatro, Christine Collis, Chrystal Coleman, Dana Luciani, Katiana Fenelon, Gabriella Amador

Submitted By: Gay Kohler-Sides

Minority AIDS Program (MAP)
 Increasing Outreach and
 Community Mobilization Efforts

The Minority AIDS Program's (MAP) goal is to raise HIV awareness through outreach and education, community mobilization, and capacity building. MAP hosts a number of events throughout the year and coordinates HIV/AIDS activities that are aimed at reducing the number of new infections and increasing testing in the community.

In an effort to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the community, the Minority AIDS Program at the Florida Department of Health offers free HIV and STD testing in communities throughout Alachua County.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
 Reducing risks for HIV-Negative Individuals
 through ART

PrEP is a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy that involves the daily use of antiretroviral medications to reduce the risk of HIV infection in HIV-negative individuals. It is one pill that a person can take daily, and it can reduce the chances of sexual transmission of HIV by over 90%.

The Florida Department of Health in Alachua County has a PrEP clinic that runs Monday-Friday that makes this medication available to all. For clients that are uninsured, there is a Patient Assistance Program (PAP) that is available to fund the cost of the medication.

Test and Treat
 Treatment as Prevention

If a person tests positive for HIV, the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County has a service that can offer the client same-day treatment. Through the Test and Treat program, a newly diagnosed HIV positive individual, or a previously diagnosed individual that is looking to reestablish care can obtain immediate care, including a 30-day supply of medication.

After an initial Test and Treat appointment, a linkage specialist will work with the client to obtain all the necessary documentation to establish permanent care and stay in treatment. The Ryan White program allows eligible clients to obtain clinical and medical case management services

The faster that HIV positive individuals are able to get into care, the faster they can achieve viral suppression. This promotes the health of the HIV positive person and decreases the risk of transmission to sexual partners.

FYI: 7 in 10 people at high risk for HIV who weren't tested last year saw a healthcare provider during that year.

Testing and Counseling
 Promoting Routine Testing

Florida continues to lead the nation in the number of HIV tests conducted at over 1,400 publicly funded and registered sites. During 2016, the Counseling, Testing and Linkage (CTL) data team recorded over 360,000 HIV screening tests with about 60% of these tests conducted at sites using rapid test technologies.

HIV testing is provided in a number of venues—County Health Departments, non-profits, community based organizations, jails, hospitals, community health centers, mobile testing units, sexually transmitted disease clinics, outreach events, and other community venues.

Testing for HIV is a powerful tool in our prevention arsenal. We know that when a person knows their HIV status they will apply prevention measures with their partners and will enter into medical care and tend to remain in care.



AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
 Promoting Medication Adherence
 and Viral Suppression

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is a statewide, federally funded prescription medication program for eligible people living with HIV. This program provides medications to uninsured or underinsured individuals living with HIV. Services are provided through the distribution of medication directly to eligible clients or by purchase of health insurance that includes coverage for HIV/AIDS medications.

Our mission is to provide access to HIV-related prescription drugs, disease management expertise, and support services to our clients in the most cost-effective manner.

FLORIDA REPORTABLE DISEASES *Alachua County 2 year activity*

Disease Activity	2019	2018	2018	Disease Activity	2019	2018	2018
	Jan-Mar	Jan-Mar	Jan-Dec		Jan-Mar	Jan-Mar	Jan-Dec
AIDS	**	**	**	Meningitis, bacterial or mycotic	0	1	2
Anaplasmosis, HGA(<i>Anaplasma Phag</i>)	0	0	0	Meningococcal disease	0	0	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	Mercury poisoning	0	0	0
Botulism	0	0	0	Mumps	0	0	2
Brucellosis	0	0	0	Neurotoxic shellfish poisoning	0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	12	5	46	Pertussis	1	0	4
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0	0	Pesticide-related Illness and injury, acute	0	0	0
Chikungunya fever	0	0	0	Plague	0	0	0
Chlamydia	632	536	2476	Psittacosis (ornithosis)	0	0	0
Ciguatera	0	0	0	Q Fever	0	0	0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	0	Rabies, animal or human	2	1	7
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	2	Rabies, possible exposure	16	20	85
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	4	Rocky Mountain spotted fever			
Dengue	0	0	0	and other spotted fever rickettsioses	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	Rubella	0	0	0
Ehrlichiosis, HME (<i>Ehrlichia chafeensis</i>)	0	0	6	Salmonellosis Typhi Infection	0	0	6
Ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis	0	0	0	Salmonellosis	9	10	64
<i>Escherichia coli</i> infection, Shiga toxin-producing	4	0	9	Saxitoxin poisoning (paralytic shellfish poisoning)	0	0	0
Giardiasis (acute)	1	1	10	Severe acute respiratory disease syndrome associated with coronavirus infection	0	0	0
Gonorrhea	150	152	816	Shigellosis	2	0	10
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , invasive disease in children <=5 years old	0*	2*	2*	Smallpox	0	0	0
Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)	0	0	0	Staphylococcal enterotoxin B poisoning	0	0	0
Hantavirus infection	0	0	0	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> infection (VISA, VRSA)	0	0	0
Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> invasive disease in children (drug resistant) <6 years old	0*	0*	0*
Hepatitis A	5	1	2	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> invasive disease In children (susceptible) <= 6 years old	0	0*	0*
Hepatitis B Acute	2	1	1	Syphilis	17	11	54
Hepatitis B Chronic	8	8	32	Syphilis in pregnant women & neonates	0	0	0
Hepatitis B surface antigen in pregnant women or children <2 years old	0	0	1	Tetanus	0	0	0
Hepatitis C Acute	1	1	5	Trichinellosis (trichinosis)	0	0	0
Hepatitis C Chronic	64	62	242	Tuberculosis (TB)	0	1	2
Herpes B Virus, Possible Exposure	0	0	0	Typhoid fever (<i>Salmonella</i> serotype Typhi)	0	0	0
Herpes simplex virus (HSV) in infants	0	0	0	Typhus fever, epidemic	0	0	0
HIV	**	**	**	Varicella (chickenpox)	2	1	5
Influenza A, novel or pandemic strains	0	0	0	<i>Vibrio (other Vibrio Species)</i>	3	0	1
Lead Poisoning	1	9	15	<i>Vibrio cholerae</i> type Non-01	0	0	0
Legionellosis	0	1	3	<i>Vibrio (Parahaemolyticus, other)</i>	0	0	0
Leptospirosis	1	0	0	<i>Vibrio fluvialis</i>	0	0	1
Listeriosis	0	0	0	<i>Vibrio vulnificus</i>	0	0	1
Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)	0	0	0	Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non Congenital	0	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0				
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 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?



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. Antimalarial medications are also recommended for travel to some areas endemic to malaria. A helpful website to research that provides current information on travel preparedness and lists all vaccines recommended/required by the ACIP and CDC is www.cdc.gov/travel. If you are planning to travel and would like to schedule a Foreign Travel consultation, please contact the Alachua County Health Department Foreign Travel appointment desk at 352-334-8849 to request an appointment.

Submitted By: Michael Smith, BSN, RN
Community Health Nursing Consultant
Immunizations

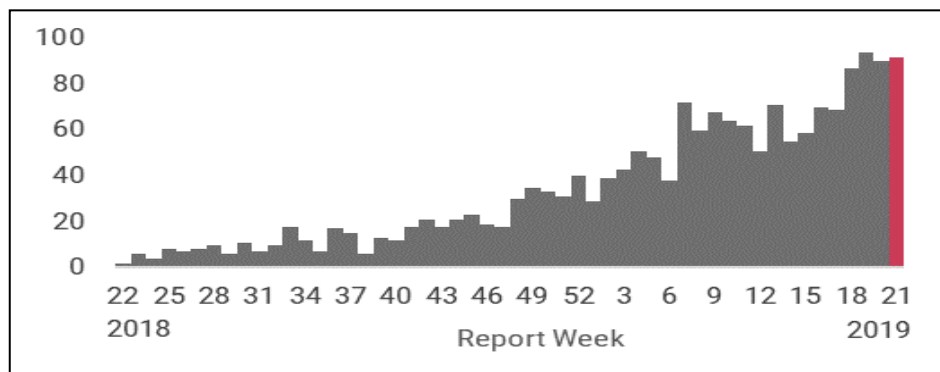


Hepatitis A Outbreak Update

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

Since January 2018 through May 25, 2019, there have been 1,860 cases reported, with the majority acquired in Florida. Cases likely acquired in Florida share several common risk factors including drug use (both injection and non-injection drugs), identifying as men who have sex with men, and experiencing homelessness (DOH, 2018). **Individuals with any of these risk factors should receive the hepatitis A vaccine, and providers are encouraged to actively offer the hepatitis A vaccine to individuals at risk. Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A infection.**

Additionally, practicing good hand hygiene, including thoroughly washing hands after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food plays an important role in preventing the spread of hepatitis A. Health care providers are reminded to immediately report all cases of hepatitis A to DOH-Alachua (352-225-4181) to ensure a prompt public health response to prevent disease among close contacts.



Resources:

For additional information, please see the health advisory issued by the Florida Department of Health in November 2018, available at: FloridaHealth.gov/about-the-department-of-health/about-us/sunshine-info/advisories/_documents/112818-fl-hav-advisory-11-26-lws-edits-all-accepted-oo-format-final.pdf

Updates: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/index.html>

References:

Florida Department of Health. (2018). Florida Department of Health Issues Hepatitis a Health Advisory—Encourages Vaccination. Retrieved from <http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2018/11/112818-hav-advisory-pr.html>



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