

EPIGRAM

PRODUCED BY DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES
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NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

Make an Effective Vaccine Recommendation during National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the efforts of healthcare professionals to protect patients of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases through on-time vaccination.

During NIAM, Nassau County Health Department encourages you to ensure your patients are up to date on recommended vaccines. Research has consistently shown that healthcare professionals are the most trusted source of vaccine information for parents and patients.

Use NIAM as an opportunity to access CDC educational resources (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/hcp/educational-resources.html>) like the #HowIRecommend Video Series (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/howirecommend/index.html>), which offers simple and practical guidance for having successful vaccine conversations with parents and patients. These short videos demonstrate how to make effective vaccine recommendations, address common vaccine questions, and take a team-based approach to vaccination.

CDC has also developed Medscape CME activities to help healthcare professionals have successful conversations with parents about vaccines. Access these CME activities at the links below:

- ✦ Making the Case: Championing for HPV Cancer Prevention in Your Practice: <https://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/898084>
- ✦ Pediatric Immunization: Navigating Difficult Conversations with Parents: <https://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/907254>

The Public Health Foundation and CDC have developed a digital communication toolkit with messages and graphics tailored to your role as a healthcare professional and emphasizing the importance of vaccination for your patients. Show your practice's support of vaccination throughout the month by using this content on your website and on social media. During NIAM and beyond, you can engage with CDC and other healthcare professionals on social media by using #vax2protect in your posts.

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DISEASE REPORTING

Phone
(904) 875-6100

Confidential Fax Line
(904) 428-5630

After Hours Line
(904) 813-6801

Bureau of Epidemiology
24 Hour Reporting Line
(850) 245-4401

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NASSAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT LOCATIONS

Fernandina Beach Clinic
1620 Nectarine Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 557-9130

Yulee Clinic
86014 Pages Dairy Road
Yulee, FL 32097
(904) 875-6110

Callahan Clinic
45377 Mickler Street
Callahan, FL 32011
(904) 320-6010

Hilliard Clinic
37203 Pecan Street
Hilliard, FL 32046
(904) 320-6020



ARBOVIRUS SURVEILLANCE

Nassau County

So far in 2019, seven sentinel chickens have tested positive for Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV). The positive samples were collected on 6/21, 7/13, 7/27 and 8/3. Two sentinel chicken samples collected on 8/3 tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). All Nassau County sentinel chicken samples submitted to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) in 2019 have tested negative for St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV). No human or veterinary cases of mosquito-borne illness have been reported in Nassau County in 2019.

Florida¹

No cases of endemic arboviruses have been reported in Florida so far in 2019. Two cases of locally-acquired dengue fever have been reported Miami-Dade County, with onsets in March and July. International travel-associated cases of dengue fever, chikungunya fever, Zika fever, and malaria have been reported in 2019 (Table 1). Ten counties (Bay, Calhoun, Citrus, DeSoto, Holmes, Indian River, Miami-Dade, Orange, Suwannee, and Walton) are currently under a mosquito-borne illness advisory (Fig. 1).

Arbovirus Reporting

Non-endemic viruses must be reported immediately upon suspicion (yellow fever) or immediately upon suspicion during business hours (Zika, dengue, chikungunya). Other mosquito-borne diseases endemic to Florida, such as West Nile virus disease, Eastern equine encephalitis, and St. Louis encephalitis, are reportable by the next business day. Prompt reporting of suspect cases helps ensure health department and mosquito control officials are able to rapidly implement mosquito control measures.

¹Florida Department of Health. Florida Arbovirus Surveillance. <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/index.html>.

Human Mosquito-Borne Illness Cases

Disease	Cases
West Nile virus (WNV) infection	0
St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) infection	0
Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) infection	0
International travel-associated dengue fever cases	107
Dengue fever cases acquired in Florida	2
International travel-associated chikungunya fever cases	5
Chikungunya fever cases acquired in Florida	0
International travel-associated Zika fever cases	31
Zika fever cases acquired in Florida	0
International travel-associated malaria cases	41

Table 1. Human cases of mosquito-borne illness reported in Florida, January 1–August 17, 2019¹.

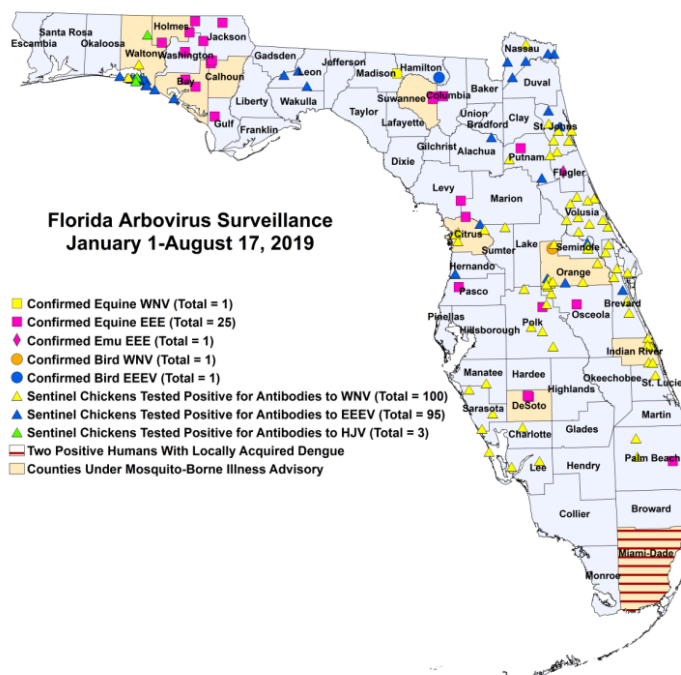


Figure 1. Arbovirus activity in Florida, January 1–August 17, 2019¹.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS

The next Florida Health Grand Rounds presentation, “The Health Effects of Disasters on Children and Seniors: Evidence from Hurricane Katrina” will be on September 10, 2019 at 10:00am. This webinar will cover topics on how administrative data can be used to investigate the potential health effects of natural disasters and how these disasters can disrupt healthcare utilization by the youth and seniors. For more information visit: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/research/florida-health-grand-rounds/index.html>

HEPATITIS A UPDATE

Nassau County

As of August 17, three cases of hepatitis A have been reported in Nassau County residents. So far this year, Nassau CHD has administered 270 doses of adult hepatitis A vaccine. Nassau CHD continues to offer hepatitis A vaccine to under- and uninsured individuals who are at risk for hepatitis A.

Florida Outbreak Update^{2,3}

From January 1, 2018 through August 17, 2019, there were 2,814 hepatitis A cases reported in Florida. Nearly all (98%) have likely been acquired in Florida. In week 33 (August 11-17), 72 cases were reported in Florida, with the highest activity levels in central Florida (Fig. 2). Of the 2,586 cases likely acquired in Florida from January 2018 through July 2019, 61% reported at least one risk factor while 39% reported no or unknown risk factors.

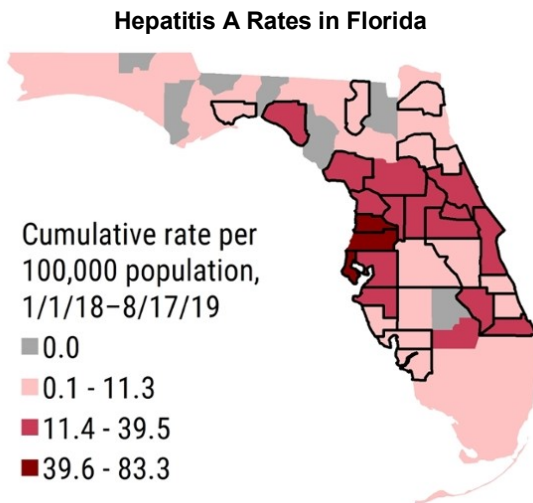


Figure 2. Cumulative hepatitis A rates in Florida by county. The 72 hepatitis A cases reported in week 33 were reported in the counties outlined in black.²

Risk Factor	Percent of Cases
Any drug use	56%
Injection drug use	37%
Non-injection drug use	36%
Recent homelessness	20%
Men who have sex with men	5%

Table 2. Risk factors reported by hepatitis A cases likely acquired in Florida, Jan. 2018 to July 2019.³

The most commonly identified risk factor was any drug use, reported by over half of cases (Table 2). Since January 2018, 72% of hepatitis A cases likely acquired in Florida have been hospitalized due to their hepatitis A infection, and 31 cases have died as a direct result of hepatitis A infection.

Prevention

Hepatitis A virus (HAV) spreads person-to-person from ingesting small amounts of fecal matter from a person with HAV. Sexual activity can spread HAV, so people who have hepatitis A should avoid sexual contact. HAV can live on surfaces for weeks, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers do not kill HAV. Everyone should be reminded to wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds before they prepare food or work with food that isn't already packaged, and after they use the restroom, change a diaper, or cough, sneeze or use a handkerchief or tissue. Towels, toothbrushes and eating utensils should not be shared, and food, drinks, drugs and cigarettes that have been handled by a person with HAV should not be handled by others. To disinfect surfaces that may have been contaminated with HAV, mix 1 and 2/3 cups bleach in one gallon of water. Allow one minute of contact time on the surface being disinfected, then rinse with water. Discard any unused diluted mixtures. Wear gloves and protect clothing while cleaning, and use chemicals in well-ventilated areas.

The most effective way to prevent HAV is through vaccination. At-risk people are those who are in close contact, care for or live with someone who has HAV; use injection or non-injection drugs; are homeless or in temporary housing; have recently been incarcerated; are men who have had sex with other men; have recently visited a country where HAV is common; or are having sex with someone who has HAV. **Providers are encouraged to actively offer the hepatitis A vaccine to those at risk. Please refer under- and uninsured patients who cannot access the vaccine through their primary care provider to Nassau CHD for screening for a free hepatitis A vaccine.** For more information on hepatitis A call the information line, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm, toll free at 1-844-CALL-DOH (844-225-5364) or email HepA@flhealth.gov.

²Florida Department of Health. Hepatitis A Surveillance January 1, 2019-August 17, 2019. http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a/surveillance-data/_documents/2019-week-33-hep-a-summary.pdf

³Florida Department of Health. Hepatitis A Surveillance July 2019. http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a/surveillance-data/_documents/2019-july-hep-a-summary.pdf

JULY 2019: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

Confirmed, Probable, and Suspect Cases of Reportable Diseases of Frequent Occurrence with Report Date 07/01/19 to 07/31/19 with Three-Year Period Comparison for Nassau County and Florida

	Nassau County		Florida	
	July 2019	July Average, 2016-2018	July 2019	July Average, 2016-2018
Arsenic Poisoning	0	0.00	1	2.33
Campylobacteriosis	2	2.33	478	416.67
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0.00	12	18.00
Chlamydia (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	17	20.67	9817	8370.67
Ciguatera Fish Poisoning	0	0.00	6	2.00
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0.00	1	2.00
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0.00	64	57.67
Cyclosporiasis	3	0.00	349	27.67
Dengue Fever	0	0.00	26	4.00
Ehrlichiosis	0	0.00	7	4.67
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection	0	0.00	97	73.33
Giardiasis, Acute	0	0.67	99	87.33
Gonorrhea (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	9	5.33	3406	2651.33
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (Invasive Disease in Children <5 Years Old)	0	0.00	3	3.33
Hepatitis A	2	0.00	361	23.33
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	0.00	83	65.33
Hepatitis B, Chronic	3	1.67	385	409.33
Hepatitis B, Pregnant Women	0	0.00	29	43.33
Hepatitis C, Acute	1	0.00	125	44.00
Hepatitis C, Chronic (Including Perinatal)	10	9.00	1678	2244.67
Lead Poisoning Cases in Children <6 Years Old	0	0.00	301	106.33
Lead Poisoning Cases in Those ≥6 Years Old	1	0.33	83	93.00
Legionellosis	1	0.00	57	38.33
Listeriosis	0	0.00	5	3.67
Lyme Disease	0	0.33	32	33.67
Malaria	0	0.00	9	9.67
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic (Excluding <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>)	0	0.00	13	9.67
Pertussis	0	1.67	49	36.67
Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury, Acute	0	0.00	2	7.33
Rabies, Animal	1	0.00	17	6.33
Rabies, Possible Exposure	2	0.33	507	313.67
Salmonellosis	11	6.67	845	661.33
Shigellosis	0	0.00	134	128.33
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease, Drug-Resistant	0	0.00	21	9.67
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease, Drug-Susceptible	0	0.00	57	21.00
Syphilis (Excluding Congenital)	2	0.00	528	633.67
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0.00	12	6.33
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	0.00	78	54.67
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	0	0.00	26	25.33
Zika Virus Disease and Infection	0	0.00	8	62.33

Table 3. Confirmed, probable, and suspect case counts for reportable diseases and conditions in Nassau County and Florida in July 2019 with three-year period comparison for Nassau County and Florida.

HEALTH BULLETINS, ADVISORIES & ALERTS

July 2019 Press Releases & Public Information

For additional information regarding press releases visit the Nassau County Health Department website or Florida Department of Health Online Newsroom at: <http://nassau.floridahealth.gov/> and <http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/>

✦ Press Release 07/22/19: Nassau County Health Officials Issue Rabies Alert

What You Should Know about Rabies

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that can be prevented but not cured. The virus attacks the brain of warm-blooded animals, including people.

How is rabies spread?

When an animal is sick with rabies, the virus is shed in the saliva and can be passed to another animal or a person, usually through a bite. Transmission may also occur if the saliva or the animal's nervous tissue enters open wounds, the mouth, nose, or eyes of another animal or person.

What do rabid animals look like?

Animals with rabies may show strange behavior—they can be aggressive, attacking for no apparent reason, or act very tame (especially wild animals). They may not be able to eat, drink or swallow. They may drool because they have difficulty swallowing. They may stagger or become paralyzed. Rabies will kill most animals.

Which animals have been reported with rabies in Florida?

Rabid raccoons have been reported most frequently, followed by bats and foxes. Since the 1980s, rabid cats were reported more frequently than rabid dogs. Rabid bobcats, skunks, otters, horses, cattle and ferrets have also been reported.

What should I do if an animal bites me?

Immediately scrub the wound with lots of soap and running water for five to ten minutes. Try to get a complete description of the animal and determine where it is so that it can be picked up by animal control staff for quarantine or rabies testing. Go to your family doctor or the nearest emergency room. Call the Nassau County Health Department (904-875-6100) or your local animal control agency (Nassau Humane Society in the Fernandina Beach city limits, 904-321-1647, or Nassau County Animal Services in the rest of the county, 904-530-6150) with the animal's description and location. The animal will either be quarantined for ten days (if it is a dog, cat or ferret) or be tested for rabies. If you kill the animal, be careful not to damage the head, and avoid further contact with the animal even when it is dead.

What should I do to protect myself, my family, and my pets from rabies?

Have your veterinarian vaccinate all of your dogs, cats, ferrets and horses against rabies, and make sure you follow your veterinarian's instructions for revaccination. Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Never feed wild or stray animals—avoid attracting them with outdoor food sources (like uncovered trash). Feed your pets indoors. Do not allow your pets to run free. Follow leash laws by keeping pets and livestock secured on your property. Support animal control in your community. If your animal is attacked by a wild, stray or unvaccinated animal, DO NOT examine your pet for injuries without wearing gloves. DO wash your pet with soap and water to remove saliva from the attacking animal. DO NOT let your animal come in contact with other animals or people until the situation can be handled by animal control or health department staff. Bat proof your house, but remember it is illegal to exclude or remove bats during maternity season, which is April 16 through August 14. For more information on bat exclusion, visit <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/mammals/land/bats/information/buildings/exclude/>.

For more information on rabies, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html>

