

# EPIGRAM

PRODUCED BY DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES  
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**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

<b>RABIES ALERT</b>	1-2
<b>INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE</b>	3
<b>2017 FLORIDA MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY REPORT</b>	4
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS &amp; TRAININGS</b>	4
<b>DECEMBER 2018: REPORTED DISEASES</b>	5
<b>BULLETINS, ADVISORIES &amp; ALERTS FOR DISPLAY IN OFFICE</b>	

## RABIES ALERT

### Rabies Alert

The Florida Department of Health in Nassau County (DOH-Nassau) issued a rabies alert for north-west Nassau County on January 22, 2019. This is in response to a cat that tested positive for rabies on January 18, 2019.

All residents and visitors in Nassau County should be aware that rabies is present in the wild animal population and domestic animals are at risk if not vaccinated. The public is asked to maintain a heightened awareness that rabies is active in Nassau County. Alerts are designed to increase awareness to the public. Please be aware that rabies activities can also occur outside the alert area.

This rabies alert is for 60 days. The center of the rabies alert is at Kings Ferry, and includes the following boundaries in Nassau County:

- ✦ St. Mary's River to the North,
- ✦ Prospect Landing, Murrhee Road and U.S. Hwy 1 to the West,
- ✦ Lessie Road to the East,
- ✦ W. County Road 108 to the South.

An animal with rabies could infect 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 Exposure Evaluation and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

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. When evaluating a patient who has been bitten or scratched by an animal, health care providers should consider the type of wound, the type of animal, and the animal's current status to determine whether rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is warranted (Fig. 1). All possible rabies exposures must be reported as per Florida Administrative Code Chapter 64D-3 to your local county health department, regardless of treatment provided. If there are any questions or concerns about whether PEP is recommended for a patient, please contact DOH-Nassau for consultation.

All rabies PEP should begin with immediate thorough cleansing of all wounds with soap and water. If available, a viricidal agent such as a povidone-iodine solution should be used to irrigate the wounds. Patient tetanus vaccination status should also be determined.

**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

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
NASSAU COUNTY CONTACTS**

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(904) 557-9183  
Catherine.Jackson-Banks@flhealth.gov

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NASSAU COUNTY**

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

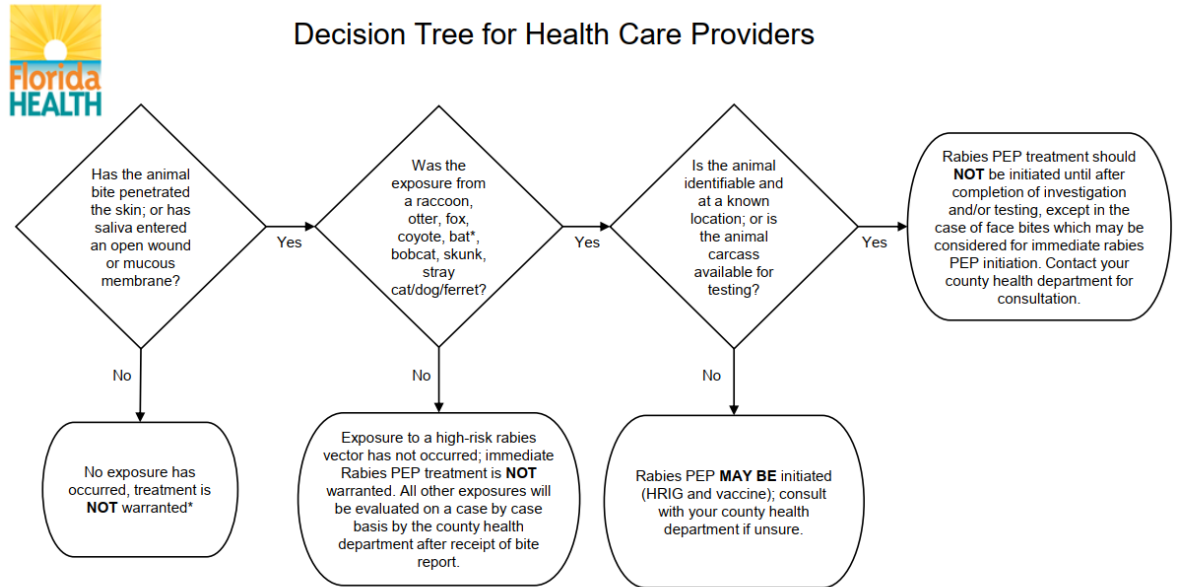
Yulee Clinic  
86014 Pages Dairy Road  
Yulee, FL 32097  
(904) 875-6110

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

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



The rabies PEP regimens provided (Table 1) are applicable for all age groups, including children, and pregnant women. Vaccine should never be administered in the gluteal area or near the human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) administration site. Day 0 is the day the first dose of vaccine is given, not the day the bite occurred. In cases that unexpected, extended delays in administering rabies PEP have occurred (i.e. patient delay in seeking medical care) up to one year following the exposure, PEP should be administered as soon as possible if the patient is not demonstrating signs of encephalitis. In cases that delay is greater than one year from the exposure or that the patient is demonstrating signs of encephalitis, please consult with your county health department.



\* Bat bites may be difficult to see. Please contact your county health department for consultation on suspected bat bite exposures.

Figure 1. Rabies PEP decision tree for healthcare providers.

**Administration Schedule for Persons Previously Vaccinated in the U.S. since 1982**

Product	Route	Site	Dose	# Doses	Schedule
Rabies Vaccine	IM	Deltoid	1.0mL	2	Days 0 and 3

**Administration Schedule for Persons Not Previously Vaccinated**

Product	Route	Site	Dose	# Doses	Schedule
Human Rabies Immune Globulin	Infiltrate wound	Wound, if feasible; distant from vaccine (deltoid)	20 IU/kg or 9 IU/lb (0.06mL/lb)	1	Day 0
Rabies Vaccine	IM	Deltoid (or anterolateral thigh for small children)	1.0mL	4	Days 0, 3, 7, and 14
Rabies Vaccine for immunosuppressed people	IM	Deltoid (or anterolateral thigh for small children)	1.0mL	5	Days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28 with titer

Table 1. Rabies PEP guidelines. Details can be found in:  
 CDC. Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Post-exposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR 2010;59(RR-2):1-9.  
 CDC. Humans Rabies Prevention - United States, 2008 Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR Early Release 2008;57:1-28.

If rabies PEP is not administered according to the recommended schedule, please consult with DOH-Nassau to determine the appropriate schedule for completing the series.

For further information and guidance documents on rabies, go to <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html>. To report a possible rabies exposure or for consultation on rabies exposure, contact DOH-Nassau at 904-875-6100.

## INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

### County influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity

Nassau County reported mild flu activity for week 3 (January 13-19). Visits to emergency departments for ILI are similar to levels observed in previous seasons. One possible ILI outbreak was reported in Nassau County in week 3, but after investigation it was determined not to be an outbreak. ILI activity has been decreasing in recent weeks in Nassau County.

### State influenza and ILI activity<sup>2</sup>

- ✦ Influenza activity remained stable in Florida during week 3. The majority of counties reported mild influenza activity (Fig. 2).
- ✦ Influenza A 2009 (H1N1) remains the most common subtype detected at the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in Florida. Influenza A (H3) viruses continue to be identified as well.
- ✦ Nine new outbreaks of influenza or ILI were reported in week 3. A total of 74 influenza or ILI outbreaks have been reported in Florida so far this season.
- ✦ No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported in week 3. Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths has been reported in Florida so far this season, both in unvaccinated children.

### County Influenza Activity Maps<sup>2</sup>

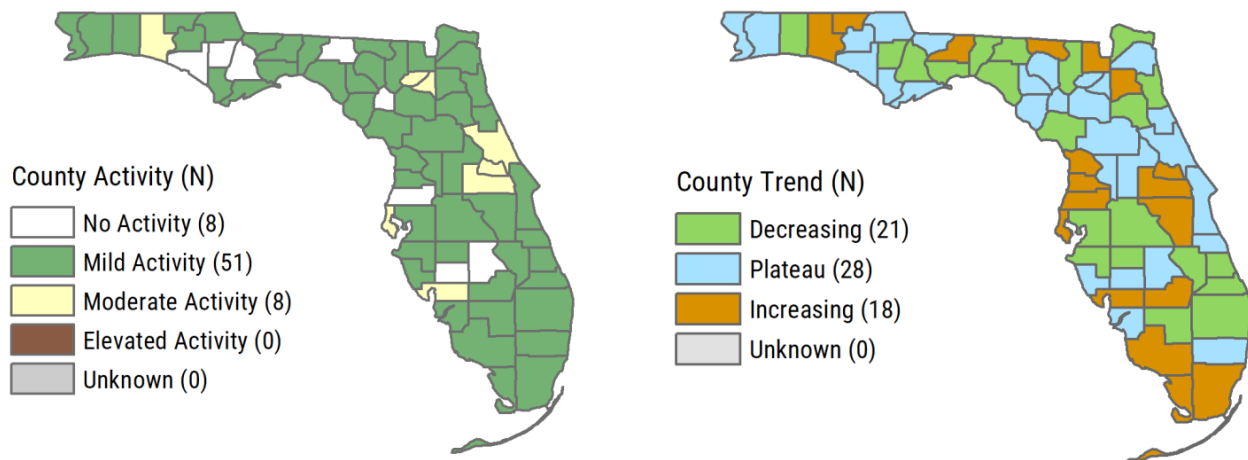


Figure 2. The majority of counties reported mild activity for week 3. Most counties reported activity at a plateau for week 3.

### National Influenza Activity<sup>3</sup>

- ✦ For the week ending January 12 (week 2), the proportion of people seeing their health care provider for ILI was 3.1%, above the national baseline of 2.2%.
- ✦ Since October 1, 2018, 3,568 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported through the Influenza Hospitalization Network (FluSurv-NET), a population-based surveillance network for laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations covering approximately 9% of the U.S. This translates to a cumulative overall rate of 12.4 hospitalizations per 100,000 people in the United States. The highest hospitalization rate is among adults aged 65 years and older (31.9 per 100,000), followed by children younger than 5 years (23.5 per 100,000). During most influenza seasons, adults 65 years and older have the highest hospitalization rates followed by young children.

<sup>2</sup> Florida Department of Health. Florida Flu Review. [www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu](http://www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu)

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Weekly U.S. influenza Surveillance Report. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/summary.htm>

## 2017 FLORIDA MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY REPORT

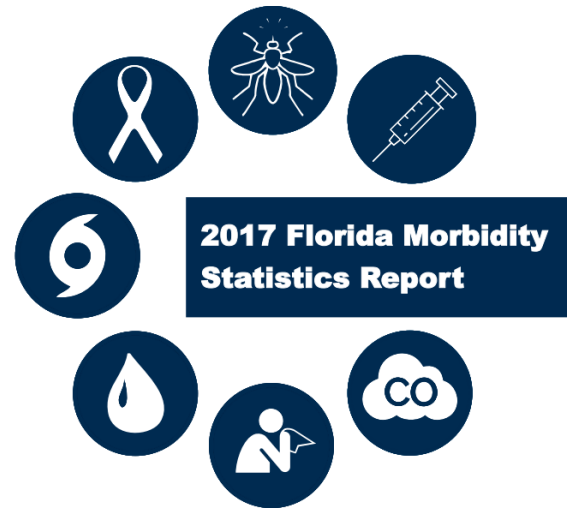
The *2017 Florida Morbidity Statistics Report* is now available. This document is the annual comprehensive report for all reportable disease morbidity in Florida and this edition marks the 62nd publication since 1945. The report contains the official statistics, in tabular and graphic form, for the reported occurrence of reportable diseases and conditions in Florida. Unless otherwise noted, the data are final totals for the corresponding year (HIV and AIDS are the notable exception). This report directly supports the mission of the Florida Department of Health by identifying patterns and trends in the incidence of disease that are used as the scientific basis for development of disease control and prevention strategies and policies.

The *Florida Morbidity Statistics Report* is compiled in a single reference document to:

- ✦ Summarize annual morbidity from reportable communicable diseases and diseases of environmental origin in Florida.
- ✦ Describe patterns of disease that can be assessed over time, compared with trends from other states, and act as an aid in directing future disease prevention and control efforts.
- ✦ Provide a resource to medical and public health authorities at county, state, and national levels.
- ✦ Serve as the final data record, describing cases and morbidity once investigations are closed and data reconciliation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is complete.

The *2017 Florida Morbidity Statistics Report* includes summaries of three focus areas in 2017: Hurricane Irma, syphilis, and HIV/AIDS. These summaries highlight surveillance data and trends as well as the work being done in Florida to address these public health issue areas.

An electronic version of the full report is available online at: [www.Floridahealth.gov/MorbidityStatisticsReport](http://www.Floridahealth.gov/MorbidityStatisticsReport).



## UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS

**The Partnership for a Healthier Nassau and the Florida Department of Health in Nassau County will be hosting a presentation on the new Nassau County 2019-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) on January 30th from 1:30-5:00 at FSCJ Nassau Red Bean Center.** This meeting is a follow up to the September 26th CHIP planning meeting whereby attendees selected new priority areas for improved health across the county. This included a focus on reducing health disparities, addressing the housing sector and looking at needed community support factors as they relate to health outcomes.

**At the meeting you will hear a special presentation by guest speaker, State Attorney Melissa Nelson. She will share her vision of health for our community and connect it with the five priority areas in the new 2019-2021 Nassau Community Health Plan.** We will also hear from local key leaders on the progress that has been made to improve health in Nassau County. You will also have a chance to network from 1:30-2:00 and then to watch a special screening of the movie *Resilience* from 4:00-5:00 pm. This documentary shows how stressful experiences (Adverse Childhood Experiences) can increase one's risk for disease, homelessness, prison time and early death. It highlights trailblazing pediatricians and educators who are using cutting edge science and therapies to protect our children and reverse this trend. This is a model we are looking to bring to Nassau County.

For more information see the attached flyer or contact Mary von Mohr at 904-557-9133 or [Mary.vonMohr@flhealth.gov](mailto:Mary.vonMohr@flhealth.gov).

## DECEMBER 2018: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

## Confirmed, Probable, Suspect Cases of Reportable Diseases of Frequent Occurrence with Report Date 12/01/18 to 12/31/18 with Three-Year Period Comparison for Nassau County and Florida

	Nassau County		Florida	
	December 2018	December Average, 2015-2017	December 2018	December Average, 2015-2017
Arsenic Poisoning	0	0.00	4	2.00
Campylobacteriosis	0	0.67	347	345.67
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0.00	15	38.67
Chlamydia (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	19	21.67	8534	9084.33
Ciguatera Fish Poisoning	0	0.00	1	3.67
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0.00	3	4.33
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0.00	39	44.67
Cyclosporiasis	0	0.00	3	1.67
Dengue Fever	0	0.00	27	5.67
Ehrlichiosis	0	0.00	3	2.00
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection	0	0.00	56	49.67
Giardiasis, Acute	0	0.33	84	85.00
Gonorrhea (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	7	6.00	2690	2920.67
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (Invasive Disease in Children <5 Years Old)	0	0.00	4	4.00
Hepatitis A	0	0.00	143	21.67
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	1.00	65	63.00
Hepatitis B, Chronic	0	1.00	370	423.00
Hepatitis B, Pregnant Women	0	0.00	44	56.67
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	0.00	44	30.67
Hepatitis C, Chronic (Including Perinatal)	5	9.00	1785	2130.00
Lead Poisoning Cases in Children <6 Years Old	0	0.33	96	59.67
Lead Poisoning Cases in Those ≥6 Years Old	0	0.33	64	63.33
Legionellosis	0	0.00	72	56.00
Listeriosis	0	0.00	5	5.00
Lyme Disease	0	0.33	50	26.00
Malaria	0	0.00	4	4.67
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic (Excluding <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> )	0	0.00	15	11.00
Pertussis	0	0.33	18	32.00
Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury, Acute	0	0.00	0	5.00
Rabies, Animal	1	0.33	7	5.00
Rabies, Possible Exposure	1	1.33	432	331.33
Salmonellosis	4	3.67	894	556.67
Shigellosis	0	0.33	146	101.00
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease, Drug-Resistant	0	0.00	18	25.00
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease, Drug-Susceptible	0	0.00	33	36.67
Syphilis (Excluding Congenital)	0	1.00	639	791.00
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0.00	3	6.00
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	0.33	141	56.33
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	0	0.33	37	23.00
Zika Virus Disease and Infection	0	0.00	16	43.67

Table 2. Confirmed, probable, and suspect case counts for reportable diseases and conditions in Nassau County and Florida in December 2018.

## HEALTH BULLETINS, ADVISORIES & ALERTS

### Press Releases & Public Information

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

- ✦ Press Release 01/02/19: Health Officials Urge Residents to Avoid Contact with Wild and Stray Animals
- ✦ Press Release 01/17/19: Partnership for a Healthier Nassau to Unveil New “Community Health Improvement Plan”
- ✦ Press Release 01/22/19: 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 Florida Department of Health in Nassau County (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 and 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>

