FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NASSAU COUNTY

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EPIGRAM

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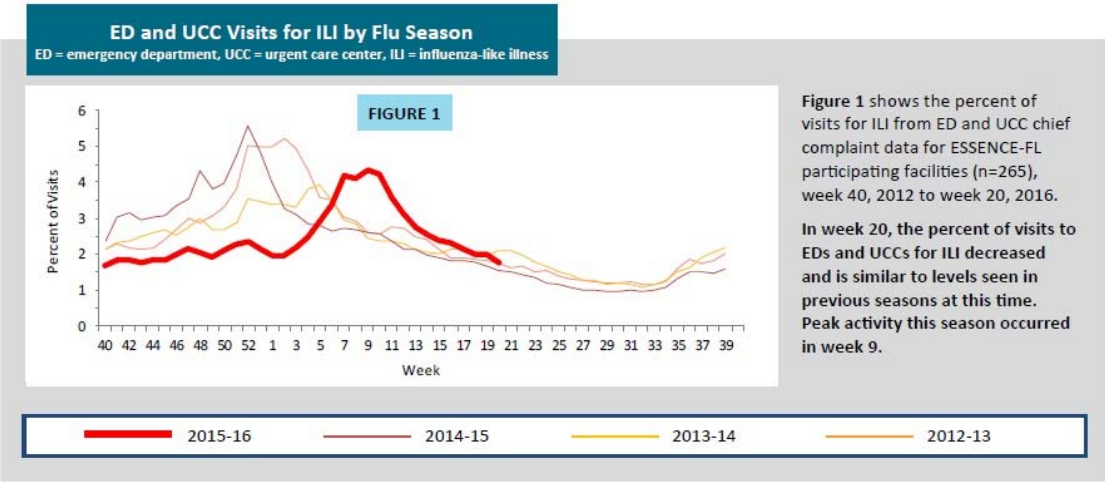
INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

Influenza activity continues to decrease nationally. Data suggests that influenza activity peaked nationally around week 10, which closely coincided with the peak in Florida. This peak in activity occurred later than in the past six seasons. The vast majority of circulating influenza viruses analyzed this season remain similar to the vaccine virus components for this season's flu vaccines.



Florida reported "sporadic" activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in week 20. Emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) visits remained low, which is typical for this time in the influenza season (Figure 1). The estimated number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza in recent weeks decreased and is below levels seen in previous seasons at this time. No influenza-related pediatric deaths were reported in week 20. No outbreaks of influenza or ILI were reported in Florida in week 20, and the majority of counties reported "mild" or no influenza activity. **In recent weeks, the most common influenza strain detected at the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) has been influenza B, although influenza A 2009 (H1N1) has been the predominantly circulating strain for the majority of the season.** This is typical for this time of year, as Florida usually sees a late season change to influenza B in the summer months. This change has also been observed nationally.

DISEASE REPORTING

Phone: (904) 530-6800

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Afterhours Line:
(904) 813-6801

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(904) 530-6750

Yulee Clinic
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Yulee, FL 32097
(904) 530-6840

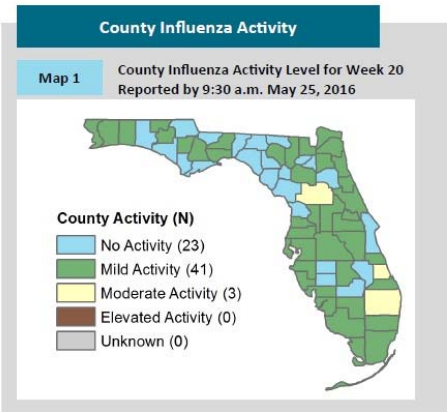
Callahan Clinic
208 Mickler Street
Callahan, FL 32011
(904) 530-6870

Hilliard Clinic
37203 Pecan Street
Hilliard, FL 32046
(904) 530-6890

Nassau County reported "mild" influenza activity in week 20 (Map 1). Five of the six specimens submitted to BPHL for influenza testing were positive for influenza, all five of which were influenza B. There were no outbreaks of influenza in Nassau County in week 20, and all surveillance partners reported none or minimal influenza activity.

Week 20 marks the end of weekly influenza reporting, but the Department of Health will continue surveillance for influenza throughout the summer with the focus on identification of outbreaks and unusually severe presentations of influenza or ILI. **Influenza circulates year-round in Florida, and annual vaccination remains the best way to protect children against influenza infection.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that persons at high risk for developing complications from influenza (such as children and pregnant women) or very ill patients suspected of having influenza receive prompt treatment with antiviral drugs, even prior to laboratory confirmation.

Source: Florida Flu Review (weekly publication) Bureau of Epidemiology website: http://www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu



Vaccine-Preventable Disease Update

Surveillance

Pertussis and varicella remain endemic in Florida due to waning immunity and vaccine efficacy. Measles and mumps are predominately acquired from imported (out of state or US) cases. Between March and May, 2016, DOH Nassau received reported cases of vaccine preventable diseases: varicella (4 cases) and pertussis (11 cases). Childhood vaccination rates are an important public health measure of "herd" immunity for childhood vaccine preventable diseases in a population. School records are the best estimate of childhood vaccination rates in Florida. School immunization records data are collected annually (October) and a report is issued annually that reflects Florida school entry (kindergarten) and booster (seventh grade) immunization rates, incomplete vaccination rates, and religious exemptions. Nassau County school immunization rates (95.3% vaccinated) exceed state of Florida rates (93.7% vaccinated). Florida healthcare practitioners are required to report pertussis to DOH immediately 24/7 by phone and varicella by the next business day. Reporting of these diseases is an invaluable part of disease surveillance in Florida and allows DOH to promptly investigate the case and implement necessary control measures.

Varicella

Nassau County reported four cases of varicella in May 2016. The varicella vaccine is 70-90% effective in preventing mild disease, and 95% effective in preventing severe disease. Breakthrough infections with varicella in previously vaccinated individuals are usually atypical in appearance. Breakthrough cases often have fewer than 50 (sometimes none) maculopapular lesions and may have no fever. Varicella is highly contagious and infects 61-90% of susceptible contacts. Airborne respiratory transmission is the most common mode of transmission, but transmission can also occur by direct contact or inhalation of vesicular fluid. Persons suspected to have varicella may be unaware of the likelihood of respiratory transmission and should be advised to stay home from school, work, or childcare and avoid contact with susceptible individuals. Healthcare facilities may also encourage individuals who are suspected to have varicella to call ahead and make arrangements to prevent contact with others. Preventing varicella is especially important for infants, adolescents, adults, pregnant women, individuals who are immunocompromised, and neonates whose mothers are not immune as they are at a higher risk of severe varicella and complications.

Pertussis

DOH Nassau recently investigated a cluster of pertussis in school-aged children on the westside of the county. A total of six cases were identified, all in the same classroom of 20 students. DOH Nassau provided a letter to classroom contacts of cases, and an awareness letter was disseminated to parents school wide. The most recent illness onset for a confirmed case was on April 19th, but DOH Nassau and the school health aide continued to monitor students for symptoms of pertussis until the end of the school year. The cases were all previously vaccinated, highlighting the importance of clinical awareness of pertussis in a highly-vaccinated population. The acellular vaccination series currently recommended in the United States has an efficacy of approximately 80% in young children, but immunity appears to wane after three to five years. Vaccinated individuals often have an attenuated clinical presentation that may not include the classic symptoms of inspiratory "whoop" and posttussive vomiting, however they are still highly contagious. Secondary attack rates among household contacts are typically between 25 and 60%, but can reach 80% among individuals who have never been immunized or previously infected. Symptomatic contacts may need testing, treatment, or both. It is especially important to quickly provide prophylaxis to high risk contacts, such as children under one year of age, pregnant women, immunocompromised persons, and health care workers.

Health Bulletins, Advisories and Alerts

For additional information regarding bulletins, advisories and alerts visit the DOH Nassau website or Department of Health Online Newsroom at: http://nassau.floridahealth.gov/ and http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/

- 5/23/16 Media release and blast fax to Nassau physicians: *Department of Health Zika Update, New CDC Reporting Guidelines*

- The Florida Department of Health has identified three cases of enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) in the state since February 2016. Two cases were identified as a result of routine outpatient surveillance, enabled by Florida's participation in the CDC/CSTE Influenza Incidence Surveillance Project. One additional case was identified though an investigation of acute flaccid paralysis. All three cases were identified in different regions of the state, including one young adult male in Nassau County. All specimens were genetically characterized at CDC and found to be genetically similar to the strain of EV-D68 that circulated in the United States in the Fall of 2014 and in Japan in the fall of 2015. More information can be found at: *http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/d68/index.html*

- Florida is experiencing a shortage of Bicillin, the primary treatment for infectious and latent syphilis. Bicillin is the only recommended therapy for syphilis in pregnant patients, therefore, the utmost priority is to maintain adequate Bicillin supplies for women who are pregnant. For more information, see attached letter from State Epidemiologist Anna Likos, MD, MPH.

- CDC HAN Alert to U.S. Healthcare Facilities: First *mcr-1* Gene in *E. coli* Bacteria found in a Human in the United States. The *mcr-1* gene makes bacteria resistant to the antibiotic colistin, which is used as a last-resort drug to treat patients with infections caused by multidrug-resistant bacteria, including carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE). More information can be found at: http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00390.asp

- The Florida Department of Health in Nassau County began its annual arthropod-borne virus (arbovirus) surveillance program in May. DOH-Nassau maintains six sentinel chicken flocks throughout the county to monitor circulating levels of several arboviruses of public health import, including West Nile Virus, Eastern Encephalitis Virus, and St. Louis Encephalitis Virus. For additional information regarding the surveillance and monitoring of arboviral diseases please visit: http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/surveillance.html

National HIV Testing Day

Florida Ranks Number One New HIV Cases – June 27th is Reminder to Test

June 27th is National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). The CDC recommends universal HIV testing and more frequently, depending on risk. NHTD is a good time to promote one time (for low risk) and annual testing for high risk persons. Florida ranks number one in the US for new HIV cases reported (2014). The rate of HIV infection in the Jacksonville Transitional Grant Area (TGA) (Duval, Nassau, Baker, St. Johns, Clay) has risen steadily at 5% - 9% annually (2010-2014). Blacks represent 64% of new cases (but only comprise 22% of the population in Jacksonville TGA). The top three risk factors in the Jacksonville TGA for HIV acquisition are: unprotected sex in men who have sex with men (MSM) (49%) and heterosexuals (44%), and intravenous drug use (IDU) (4%). In the Jacksonville TGA, current regional efforts have had little impact on HIV/AIDS incidence from 2012-2014. The Jacksonville TGA's HIV prevalence is 14.03% greater than the US HIV prevalence. Nassau County represents 6% of HIV and 1% AIDS cases in the region.

DOH Nassau offers sliding scale fee HIV testing to the community (walk-in). Persons can be referred to the Yulee Clinic at (904) 530-6840 for times and other clinic testing locations.

MAY 2016: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

Confirmed, Probable, Suspect, Unkown Cases of Multiple Diseases with Report Date 05/01/2016 to 05/31/2016 with Three-Year Period Comparison for Nassau County

	Selection Date 05/01/16 - 05/31/16		Comparison Date 1 05/01/15 - 05/31/15		Comparison Date 2 05/01/14 - 05/31/14		Comparison Date 3 05/01/13 - 05/31/13	
Disease Name	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
County: NASSAU								
Campylobacteriosis	1	2.17%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Giardiasis, Acute	1	2.17%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	3	6.52%	3	21.43%	1	7.69%	1	5.56%
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	5.56%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	26	56.52%	6	42.86%	8	61.54%	6	33.33%
Legionellosis	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	5.56%
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	7.69%	1	5.56%
Pertussis	5	10.87%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Rabies, Animal	1	2.17%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	5.56%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	2	4.35%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	16.67%
Salmonellosis	3	6.52%	4	28.57%	2	15.38%	3	16.67%
Shigellosis	0	0.00%	1	7.14%	1	7.69%	0	0.00%
Varicella (Chickenpox)	4	8.70%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	5.56%
TOTAL:	**46**	100.00%	**14**	100.00%	**13**	100.00%	**18**	100.00%
STATEWIDE TOTAL								
Campylobacteriosis	325	4.19%	314	7.29%	276	6.32%	209	5.62%
Giardiasis, Acute	126	1.62%	81	1.88%	92	2.11%	81	2.18%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	427	5.50%	420	9.75%	451	10.33%	421	11.32%
Hepatitis C, Acute	28	0.36%	18	0.42%	27	0.62%	26	0.70%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	5553	71.54%	2027	47.06%	1984	45.44%	1726	46.42%
Legionellosis	13	0.17%	26	0.60%	22	0.50%	13	0.35%
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic	10	0.13%	9	0.21%	13	0.30%	12	0.32%
Pertussis	27	0.35%	31	0.72%	63	1.44%	76	2.04%
Rabies, Animal	8	0.10%	6	0.14%	11	0.25%	10	0.27%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	279	3.59%	266	6.18%	192	4.40%	213	5.73%
Salmonellosis	332	4.28%	453	10.52%	465	10.65%	415	11.16%
Shigellosis	82	1.06%	243	5.64%	325	7.44%	87	2.34%
Varicella (Chickenpox)	75	0.97%	74	1.72%	70	1.60%	68	1.83%
Other remaining conditions in FL (not shared w/ Nassau County)	477	6.15%	339	7.87%	375	8.59%	361	9.71%
TOTAL:	**7762**	100.00%	**4307**	100.00%	**4366**	100.00%	**3718**	100.00%

Note: A new case definition for Chronic Hepatitis C was published in April 2016 and was applied retroactively to cases from January 2016. This resulted in a large number of previously unreportable Chronic Hepatitis C cases being reported in May 2016. *A list of Florida's reportable diseases and conditions can be accessed electronically at: http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/_documents/reportable-diseases/_documents/Reportable_Diseases_List_Practitioners.pdf*

GLOBAL HEALTH NEWS

- The Ministry of Public Health in Qatar confirmed a new case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus (MERS-CoV), the third confirmed case in the country in 2016. Saudi Arabia has also recently confirmed a new case of MERS-CoV, their third reported case since the beginning of June 2016. MERS-CoV was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012, and is a zoonotic virus that is transmitted from animals to humans. According to a June 9th WHO report, there have been a total of 1,753 MERS-CoV cases reported worldwide, including 680 deaths.
- Kabale district in Uganda recorded a case of hemorrhagic Rift Valley fever, only two months after the end of a previous epidemic in the same area. The virus is transmitted to humans through the handling of animal tissue during slaughtering, conducting veterinary procedures, or from the disposal of carcasses.
- Health officials reported a total of 125 human cases of anthrax in an outbreak in northern Bangladesh. The outbreak has been linked to slaughtering diseased cows. The bacteria can be found in soil, and cattle are infected while grazing. Officials are encouraging animal vaccination to prevent the spread of the disease and making people aware of the risk of slaughtering diseased animals.

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

Florida HEALTH

Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Interim State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

May 17, 2016

Dear Colleague:

This correspondence is to inform Florida health care providers of a national shortage of BICILLIN® L-A (procaine G benzathine injectable suspension), the primary treatment for infectious and latent syphilis. In Florida, the majority of the state's 67 county health departments are currently reporting critical shortages of this important antibiotic. The FDA, CDC and Pfizer Pharmaceutical are fully aware of the widespread shortages in Florida.

Pfizer explains the supply interruption as a manufacturing delay, and they expect BICILLIN® inventories and availability to normalize in July 2016. While the Department is working to procure as much of the drug as possible, we strongly urge providers to conserve available doses on hand.

BICILLIN® is the only recommended therapy for syphilis in pregnant patients, who can transmit the infection to the fetus. This can lead to blindness, bone abnormalities and other serious outcomes, including fetal demise. Therefore, the utmost priority is to maintain adequate BICILLIN® supplies for women who are pregnant and concurrently diagnosed with syphilis, or have a known exposure to the disease.

The second priority to receive BICILLIN® should be persons diagnosed with an infectious (primary/secondary) stage of the disease.

Until supplies normalize, persons diagnosed with early latent syphilis (asymptomatic and under one year duration), and uninfected persons with a known exposure to syphilis, treatment with doxycycline, 100mg 2 X day for 14 days is recommended.

For persons diagnosed with late latent syphilis (over one year duration) doxycycline, 100mg 2 X day for 28 days is recommended.

We will keep Florida's health care providers apprised of the current situation and will let you know when BICILLIN® supplies return to normal.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Likos, MD, MPH

Anna Marie Likos, MD, MPH
Acting Deputy Secretary for Health
State Epidemiologist

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