

# EPIGRAM

PRODUCED BY DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES  
EDITOR: EMILY CASON, MPH

## 2019-2020 INFLUENZA SEASON

Nassau County  
Health Department  
1620 Nectarine Street  
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INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

2019-2020 INFLUENZA SEASON	1
ARBOVIRUS SURVEILLANCE	2
UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS	2
HEPATITIS A UPDATE	3
AUGUST 2019: REPORTED DISEASES	4
BULLETINS, ADVISORIES & ALERTS FOR DISPLAY IN OFFICE	

The 2019-2020 influenza season begins on September 29th. We urge you to get vaccinated now if you have not done so already, and to actively recommend and offer influenza vaccine to patients in your clinics. **Studies have shown that people are more likely to get vaccinated when it is recommended to them by their health care providers. Your strong recommendation is a critical factor that affects whether your patients choose to get an influenza vaccine.** For more information on making a strong influenza vaccine recommendation, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/flu-vaccine-recommendation.htm>. Influenza vaccination is recommended for all people aged 6 months and older, with only rare exception, and is especially important for children aged 5 years and younger, adults aged 65 years and older, pregnant women, people with certain underlying medical conditions, and people in contact with these high-risk groups. **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends influenza vaccination be offered by the end of October but stresses vaccination should continue throughout the influenza season as long as influenza viruses are circulating, even into January or later.** Influenza seasons can vary dramatically in timing, with peak activity observed as late as March in recent seasons in Florida.

Contact the Nassau County Health Department (Nassau CHD) if:

- ✦ You suspect an outbreak of influenza or influenza-like illness (outbreaks are defined as two or more cases in a defined setting such as a school or long-term care facility).
- ✦ You suspect a death in a child may be associated with influenza infection.
- ✦ You see an unusually severe presentation of influenza.
- ✦ You think a patient may be infected with novel influenza.
- ✦ You suspect antiviral resistance in a patient with influenza.

For more information on flu surveillance and weekly *Florida Flu Review* reports, please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov/FloridaFlu](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov/FloridaFlu). **If your practice is interested in contributing to influenza surveillance in Florida, please contact Nassau CHD for information on how to become a sentinel provider in Florida's ILINet program.**

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

NASSAU COUNTY HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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NASSAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT LOCATIONS

<u>Fernandina Beach Clinic</u> 1620 Nectarine Street Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 (904) 557-9130	<u>Callahan Clinic</u> 45377 Mickler Street Callahan, FL 32011 (904) 320-6010
<u>Yulee Clinic</u> 86014 Pages Dairy Road Yulee, FL 32097 (904) 875-6110	<u>Hilliard Clinic</u> 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. Seven sentinel chicken samples (collected on 8/3, 8/17, and 8/24) 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.

**Florida<sup>1</sup>**

One human case of WNV illness acquired in Florida was reported in a Duval County resident in August, and one asymptomatic positive blood donor was reported in August in Bay County. Five cases of locally-acquired dengue fever have been reported in 2019, four in Miami-Dade County and one in Broward County. International travel-associated cases of dengue fever, chikungunya fever, Zika fever, and malaria have been reported in 2019 (Table 1). Twelve counties (Bay, Broward, Calhoun, Citrus, DeSoto, Duval, Holmes, Indian River, Orange, Polk, Suwannee, and Walton) are currently under a mosquito-borne illness advisory and one county (Miami-Dade) is under a mosquito-borne illness alert (Fig. 1).

For information on mosquito-borne disease prevention, visit: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/prevention.html>.

<sup>1</sup>Florida 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	2
St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) infection	0
Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) infection	0
International travel-associated dengue fever cases	186
Dengue fever cases acquired in Florida	5
International travel-associated chikungunya fever cases	5
Chikungunya fever cases acquired in Florida	0
International travel-associated Zika fever cases	33
Zika fever cases acquired in Florida	0
International travel-associated malaria cases	49

Table 1. Human cases of mosquito-borne illness reported in Florida, January 1–September 14, 2019<sup>1</sup>.

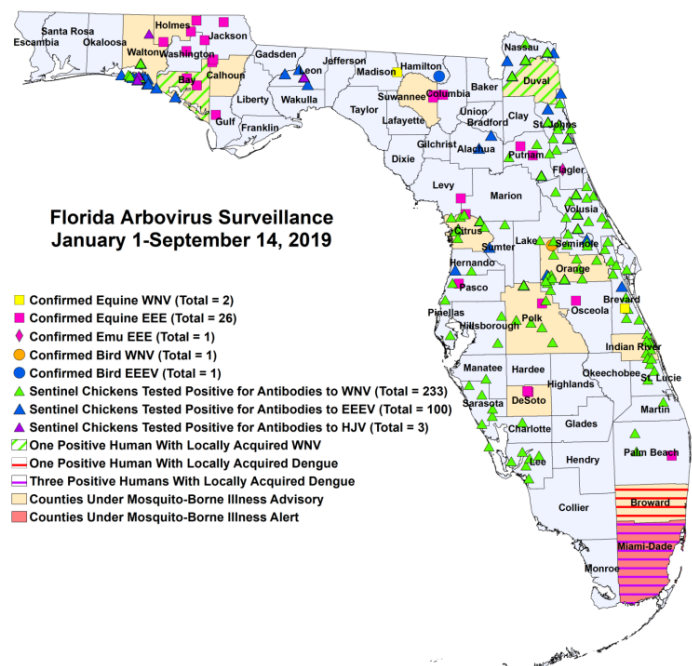


Figure 1. Arbovirus activity in Florida, January 1-September 14, 2019<sup>1</sup>.

**UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will host a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call titled *Outbreak of Pulmonary Disease Associated with E-cigarette Product Use or Vaping: Information for Clinicians* on Thursday, September 19 from 2:00-3:00pm. In this call CDC will review e-cigarette and vaping terminology, clinical features reported among cases of pulmonary disease in the recent outbreak, and recommendations for clinicians. Visit [https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2019/callinfo\\_091919.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2019/callinfo_091919.asp) for more information.

Clinicians are asked to report cases of pulmonary illness associated with e-cigarette use or vaping to the Nassau County Health Department at (904) 875-6100.

## HEPATITIS A UPDATE

**Nassau County**

As of September 14, four cases of hepatitis A have been reported in Nassau County residents. So far this year, Nassau CHD has administered 285 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**<sup>2,3</sup>

From January 1, 2018 through September 14, 2019, there were 3,088 hepatitis A cases reported in Florida. In week 37 (September 8-14), 78 cases were reported in Florida, with the highest activity levels in central Florida (Fig. 2). Of the 2,903 cases likely acquired in Florida from January 2018 through August 2019, 62% reported at least one risk factor while 38% reported no or unknown risk factors. **The most commonly identified risk factor was remains any drug use, reported by over half (57%) of cases. Recent homelessness was reported by 21% of cases.** Since January 2018, 71% of hepatitis A cases likely acquired in Florida have been hospitalized due to their hepatitis A infection, and 39 cases have died as a direct result of hepatitis A infection.

**VEST Strategy**

Remember to VEST against hepatitis A: **Vaccinate**, **Educate** yourself, practice basic **Sanitation** by washing your hands, and know that the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and our health partners are **Tracking** the virus with the goal of bringing this outbreak to an end. For more information on the VEST strategy, visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov/HepA](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov/HepA).

- ✦ **Vaccinate.** Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A infection. Health care providers should actively identify and recommend vaccination to patients with risk factors that put them at high risk for infection (drug use, recent homelessness, recent incarceration) and those at high risk for serious illness (such as those with chronic liver disease, clotting-factor disorders, and those age 60 or older with a serious underlying medical condition).
- ✦ **Educate.** FDOH encourages businesses, including health care providers, to post and distribute hepatitis A information for employees, including topics such as handwashing, hepatitis A symptoms, vaccines, and restroom disinfection. For hepatitis A educational resources, including information for healthcare providers, visit [http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/public-health-campaigns/index.html#hepatitis\\_a](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/public-health-campaigns/index.html#hepatitis_a).
- ✦ **Sanitation.** Washing hands with soap and water helps to stop the spread of hepatitis A—alcohol-based hand sanitizers do not kill hepatitis A virus (HAV). Frequently touched surfaces in public areas such as restrooms should be disinfected to kill HAV. For more information on disinfection for HAV, visit [http://ww11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/partners/hepatitis\\_a/businesses/hepA\\_disinfection\\_17x11\\_public-rest.pdf](http://ww11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/partners/hepatitis_a/businesses/hepA_disinfection_17x11_public-rest.pdf).
- ✦ **Tracking.** The FDOH Bureau of Epidemiology and County Health Departments (CHDs) are responsible for tracking disease trends in Florida. By collecting and analyzing data that points to the extent of disease in certain areas, we can evaluate transmission risk, intervene and aid communities. Reports from health care providers and labs are essential. Health care providers and laboratory workers should report confirmed and suspected cases of hepatitis A immediately to Nassau CHD during regular office hours at (904) 875-6100. If Nassau CHD can't be reached, contact the FDOH Bureau of Epidemiology at (850) 245-4401.

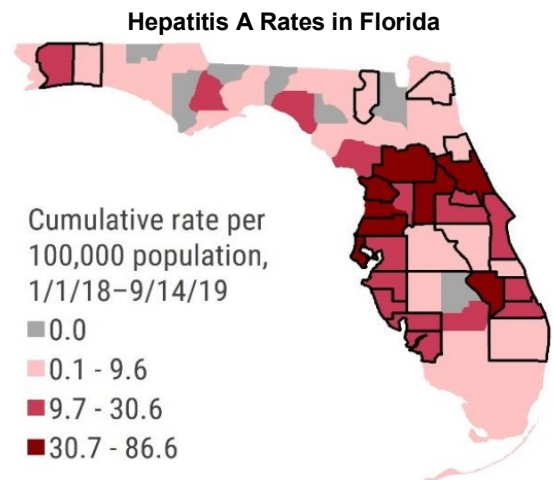


Figure 2. Cumulative hepatitis A rates in Florida by county. The 78 hepatitis A cases reported in week 37 were reported in the counties outlined in black.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Florida Department of Health. Hepatitis A Surveillance January 1, 2019-September 14, 2019. [http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a/surveillance-data/\\_documents/2019-week-37-hep-a-summary.pdf](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a/surveillance-data/_documents/2019-week-37-hep-a-summary.pdf).

<sup>3</sup>Florida Department of Health. Hepatitis A Surveillance August 2019. [http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a/surveillance-data/\\_documents/2019-august-hep-a-summary.pdf](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a/surveillance-data/_documents/2019-august-hep-a-summary.pdf).

## AUGUST 2019: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

## Confirmed, Probable, and Suspect Cases of Reportable Diseases of Frequent Occurrence with Report Date 08/01/19 to 08/31/19 with Three-Year Period Comparison for Nassau County and Florida

	Nassau County		Florida	
	August 2019	August Average, 2016-2018	August 2019	August Average, 2016-2018
Arsenic Poisoning	0	0.00	0	1.33
Campylobacteriosis	2	1.67	384	449.67
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0.67	21	16.67
Chlamydia (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	11	23.67	9175	9454.00
Ciguatera Fish Poisoning	0	0.00	8	4.00
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0.00	4	2.67
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1.33	79	72.33
Cyclosporiasis	0	0.33	152	28.00
Dengue Fever	0	0.00	84	6.00
Ehrlichiosis	1	0.33	3	3.67
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection	0	0.67	92	76.67
Giardiasis, Acute	2	2.00	124	110.00
Gonorrhea (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	10	5.33	3092	2898.00
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (Invasive Disease in Children <5 Years Old)	0	0.00	7	2.33
Hepatitis A	2	0.00	317	31.67
Hepatitis B, Acute	1	2.33	95	66.33
Hepatitis B, Chronic	2	1.00	454	429.33
Hepatitis B, Pregnant Women	0	0.00	42	38.00
Hepatitis C, Acute	1	1.33	103	39.67
Hepatitis C, Chronic (Including Perinatal)	9	7.67	1911	2287.33
Lead Poisoning Cases in Children <6 Years Old	0	0.00	116	110.00
Lead Poisoning Cases in Those ≥6 Years Old	0	0.33	100	114.00
Legionellosis	0	0.00	80	51.00
Listeriosis	0	0.00	1	5.33
Lyme Disease	0	0.00	51	39.00
Malaria	0	0.00	6	8.00
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic (Excluding <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> )	0	0.33	10	10.00
Pertussis	0	0.00	51	40.33
Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury, Acute	0	0.00	5	4.00
Rabies, Animal	0	0.00	13	7.67
Rabies, Possible Exposure	0	0.33	362	328.33
Salmonellosis	3	0.00	909	785.67
Shigellosis	0	0.00	148	131.67
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease, Drug-Resistant	0	0.00	24	9.00
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease, Drug-Susceptible	0	2.33	22	13.67
Syphilis (Excluding Congenital)	0	0.67	377	730.33
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0.00	6	9.00
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	0.33	84	52.67
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	0	1.00	35	34.33
Zika Virus Disease and Infection	0	0.00	8	113.00

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

**HEALTH BULLETINS, ADVISORIES & ALERTS**

**August 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/>

✦ No press releases in August

**Immunization Protects All of Us: Don't Wait. Vaccinate!**

In the United States, vaccines have greatly reduced infectious diseases that once routinely killed or harmed many infants, children, and adults. However, the viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable disease still exist and can be passed on to people who are not protected by vaccines. Every year, thousands of Americans still suffer serious health problems, are hospitalized, and even die from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines. Protect your health and the health of your family. Make sure you and your loved ones are up-to-date on recommended vaccines.

**Here's why you shouldn't wait:**

- ✦ Many vaccine-preventable diseases are still common in the U.S.
- ✦ Those that are not common here are still found in other parts of the world, and can still be a threat.
- ✦ Some of these diseases are very contagious.
- ✦ Any of these diseases could be serious – even for healthy people.
- ✦ Certain people may be at higher risk for getting some diseases or having more serious illness if they were to get sick, like young children, older adults, and those with health conditions.

Vaccines are our best protection against a number of serious, and sometimes deadly, diseases. Every year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other medical experts update vaccine recommendations for children, teens, and adults based on the latest research and evidence-based science on vaccine safety, effectiveness, and patterns of vaccine-preventable diseases.

You have the power to protect yourself and the ones you love. Talk to your healthcare professional about which vaccines are right for you and your family.

**Getting Vaccinated**

Most private health insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them. Medicare and Medicaid also cover a number of vaccines for adults. Vaccines are available at private doctor offices, as well as other convenient locations such as pharmacies, workplaces, community health clinics, and health departments.

To learn more about vaccines and take a quick quiz to find out which vaccines you may need, visit: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults).

