

EPIGRAM

PRODUCED BY DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES
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ARBOVIRUS SURVEILLANCE

Nassau County Arbovirus Activity

From January 1, 2018 through July 14, 2018, there were four confirmed cases (onset dates 1/29, 4/30, 5/25, 6/2) of Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) infection in horses in Nassau County. Six sentinel chickens have tested positive for EEEV in Nassau County (specimen collection dates 5/17, 5/25, 5/31, 6/8, 6/23, 6/28). One outbreak of EEEV in an emu flock has also been reported in Nassau County (onset 7/5 for the first emu). No horses or sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Nassau County this year, and no human cases of mosquito-borne disease have been reported in Nassau County residents in 2018. Nassau County is currently under a mosquito-borne illness advisory. The Florida Department of Health in Nassau County (DOH-Nassau) recommends the following for residents and visitors:

- ✦ For more information on how to prevent EEEV infection in horses, emus, and camelids (alpacas and llamas, etc.) through vaccination, please consult your veterinarian or the University of Florida College of Large Animal Medicine.
- ✦ If you suspect your animal has EEEV infection, consult your veterinarian.
- ✦ Be aware that emus infected with EEEV can potentially expose humans and other animals who are in direct contact with their feces, meat, organs, blood and other bodily fluids. Please consult your veterinarian or DOH-Nassau for information on how to safely handle potentially infected emus.
- ✦ Nassau County residents and visitors should take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, including draining standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying, covering skin with clothing or repellent, and covering doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of buildings.

State Arbovirus Activity¹

Arbovirus surveillance in Florida includes endemic mosquito-borne viruses such as WNV, EEEV,

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Nassau County
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**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

ARBOVIRUS SURVEILLANCE	1-2
2ND QUARTER 2018: STD SURVEILLANCE	2
DISEASE SPOTLIGHT: HEPATITIS A	3-4
BACK TO SCHOOL PHYSICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS	4
JUNE 2018: REPORTED DISEASES	5
BULLETINS, ADVISORIES & ALERTS FOR DISPLAY IN OFFICE	

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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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NASSAU COUNTY

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

Yulee Clinic
86014 Pages Dairy Road
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Callahan Clinic
45377 Mickler Street
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and St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV), as well as exotic viruses such as dengue virus (DENV), chikungunya virus (CHIKV) and California encephalitis group viruses (CEV). Malaria, a parasitic mosquito-borne disease is also included. Cases of chikungunya fever, dengue fever, Zika fever, and malaria were reported in persons with history of travel to areas where these diseases are circulating (Table 1). No locally acquired cases of chikungunya fever, dengue fever, Zika fever, or malaria have been reported in Florida in 2018. One human case of EEEV infection and one asymptomatic blood donor who tested positive for WNV have been reported in Florida in 2018 (Table 1). Eleven counties are under mosquito-borne illness advisories and one county is under a mosquito-borne illness alert (Fig. 1).

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

Disease	Case Count
Chikungunya Fever	1
Dengue Fever	6
Zika Fever	53
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	1

Table 1. Human cases of mosquito-borne disease reported in Florida, Jan. 1– July 14, 2018.

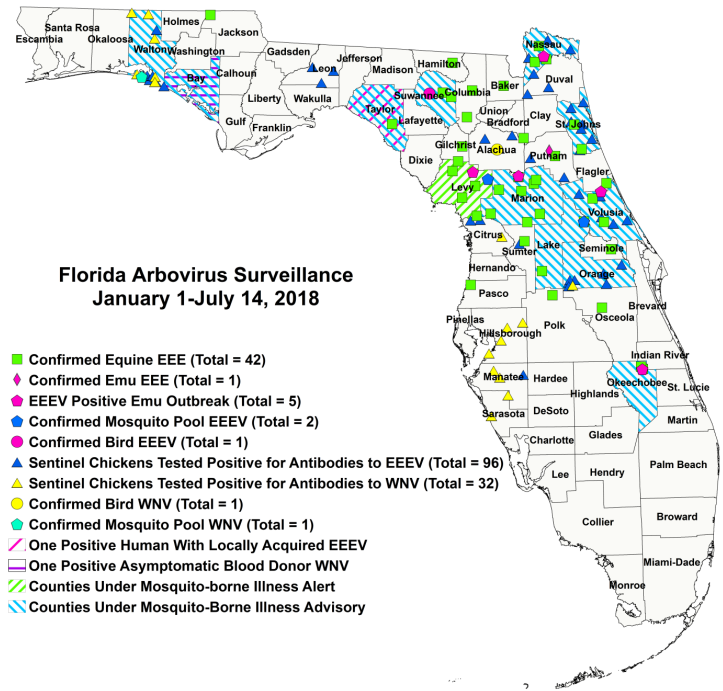


Figure 1. Arbovirus surveillance in Florida, January 1– July 14, 2018¹.

STD SURVEILLANCE

Confirmed, Probable, Suspect Cases of Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported in Second Quarter 2018 with Three-Year Period Comparison for Nassau County

Disease Name	Selection Date		Comparison Date 1		Comparison Date 2		Comparison Date 3	
	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
NASSAU COUNTY								
Chlamydia	54	78.3%	59	67.0%	50	89.3%	42	71.2%
Gonorrhea	13	18.8%	24	27.3%	5	8.9%	14	23.7%
Syphilis	2	2.9%	5	5.7%	1	1.8%	3	5.1%
TOTAL	69	100.0%	88	100.0%	56	100.0%	59	100.0%
Chlamydia	24941	72.1%	26446	71.1%	24361	72.7%	22914	75.3%
Gonorrhea	7696	22.2%	8302	22.3%	7013	20.9%	5805	19.1%
Syphilis	1967	5.7%	2444	6.6%	2128	6.4%	1700	5.6%
TOTAL	34604	100.0%	37192	100.0%	33502	100.0%	30419	100.0%

Table 2. Confirmed, probable, and suspect case counts for bacterial sexually transmitted diseases in Nassau County and Florida, second quarter 2015 through second quarter 2018.

Disease/condition counts for 2017 and before are final. Disease/condition counts for 2018 are preliminary and will change.

DISEASE SPOTLIGHT: HEPATITIS A

Hepatitis A Characteristics¹

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable viral infection that is typically spread through ingestion of something contaminated with the feces of an infected person. Most infections occur due to close personal contact with an infected person or household member, and common source outbreaks can occur due to contaminated food or water. Virus can remain infectious on surfaces for at least a month. The incubation period can range from 15 to 50 days, with an average of 28 days. Symptoms of hepatitis A can include fever, malaise, anorexia, nausea, abdominal pain, jaundice, dark colored urine, and light-colored stools. Persons infected with hepatitis A are most infectious during the two weeks before the onset of jaundice, and infectivity declines the week after jaundice appears. In people without jaundice, peak infectivity occurs when serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) concentrations increase. **Laboratories, hospitals, and physicians are required to immediately report hepatitis A infections to the Florida Department of Health without delay 24/7 by phone upon laboratory confirmation or physician diagnosis.**

Epidemiology of Hepatitis A

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments are investigating several outbreaks of hepatitis A among persons who report drug use and/or homelessness and their contacts. From the beginning of 2017 through April 2018, 68% of cases reported to CDC with known risk factors reported drug use (injection or non-injection), homelessness, or both². Increased case numbers and cases with these risk factors have been observed in Florida as well. **The annual number of hepatitis A cases reported in Florida remained relatively consistent from 2013 through 2016, but the number of cases more than doubled from 2016 to 2017** (Fig. 2). There have recently been substantial increases in locally acquired hepatitis A infections in the central Florida and Tampa Bay areas. Approximately half of the recent cases in central Florida and the Tampa Bay area reported a history of intravenous drug use and many also had a history of hepatitis B and/or C infections^{4,5}. There have been no recent hepatitis A cases reported in Nassau County residents, but health care providers are encouraged to consider hepatitis A as a diagnosis in anyone with clinically compatible symptoms and to provide and promote hepatitis A vaccination to patients.

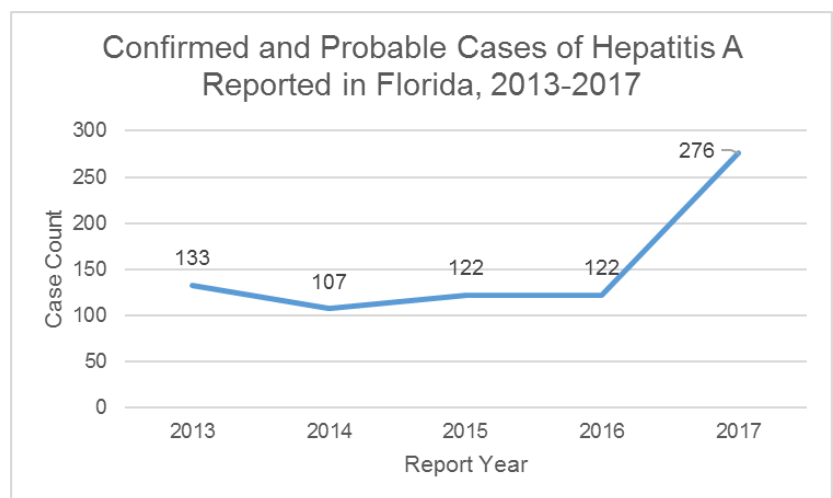


Figure 2. Hepatitis A cases in Florida, 2013-2017³.

CDC recommends the following groups be vaccinated against hepatitis A²

- ◆ All children at age 1 year
- ◆ Persons who are at increased risk for infection, including persons traveling to or working in countries that have high or intermediate endemicity of hepatitis A; men who have sex with men; persons who use injection and non-injection drugs; persons who have occupational risk for infection; persons who have chronic liver disease; persons who have clotting-factor disorders; household members and other close personal contacts or adopted children newly arriving from countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity; and persons with direct contact with persons who have hepatitis A
- ◆ Persons who are at increased risk for complications from hepatitis A, including people with chronic liver diseases, such as hepatitis B or hepatitis C
- ◆ Any person wishing to obtain immunity

Recommendations for Health Care Providers²

- ✦ Consider hepatitis A as a diagnosis in anyone with jaundice and clinically compatible symptoms.
- ✦ Encourage persons who have been exposed recently to hepatitis A virus (HAV) and who have not been vaccinated to be administered one dose of single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin (IG) as soon as possible, within 2 weeks after exposure. Guidelines vary by age and health status (please see <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/InterimOutbreakGuidance-HAV-VaccineAdmin.htm> for additional information).
- ✦ Consider saving serum samples for additional testing to assist public health officials in the investigation of transmission (i.e., confirmation of antibody test, HAV RNA test, genotyping, and sequencing). Contact DOH-Nassau for assistance with submitting specimens for molecular characterization.
- ✦ Ensure all persons diagnosed with hepatitis A are reported to DOH-Nassau in a timely manner.
- ✦ Encourage hepatitis A vaccination for homeless individuals in areas where hepatitis A outbreaks are occurring.
- ✦ Encourage hepatitis A vaccination for persons who report drug use or other risk factors for hepatitis A.

Additional Resources

For client and provider information on hepatitis vaccination, treatment, prevention, national recommendations, and resources available in Florida, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis/hepatitis-resources.html>.

CDC is offering a series of webinars on the 13th edition of "Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Disease," also known as the pink book. The August 1st webinar will cover hepatitis A vaccination. For more information on this webinar and others in the series, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/webinar-epv/>.

¹Florida Department of Health. Hepatitis A Guide to Surveillance and Investigation. http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/disease-reporting-and-surveillance/_documents/gsi-hepatitis-a.pdf

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Outbreak of Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) Infections among Persons Who Use Drugs and Persons Experiencing Homelessness. <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00412.asp>

³Florida Department of Health. Weekly morbidity Statistics Report. <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/disease-reporting-and-surveillance/data-and-publications/weekly-morbidity-reports/index.html>

⁴Florida Department of Health. Health Care Provider Alert: Proactive Vaccination Recommended After Substantial Increase in Locally Acquired Hepatitis A infections in the Tampa Bay area. May 23, 2018.

⁵Florida Department of Health. Health Care Provider Alert: Proactive Vaccination Recommended After Substantial Increase in Locally Acquired Hepatitis A Infections in the Orlando/Central Florida Area. June 19, 2018.

BACK TO SCHOOL PHYSICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

In preparation for the beginning of the 2019-2019 school year, DOH-Nassau is partnering with community organizations to offer free school and sports physicals. Please promote these opportunities to patients, staff, and community members who may benefit from these events. For information on back to school immunization clinics at DOH-Nassau for children without insurance or those on Medicaid, please call 904-875-6110, option 1.

- ✦ The Coalition for the Reduction/Elimination of Disparities in Health (CREED) will host the annual back to school event in partnership with DOH-Nassau and other local organizations on Saturday, August 4th. The event will be from 9am-2pm at the Peck Center (516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach). Free school physicals will be available at the event and school supplies will be given away in the gymnasium starting at 10am. A parent or guardian must accompany the child for the school physical.
- ✦ The St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry offers free school and sports physicals year round to uninsured elementary, middle, or high school students. The mobile health van will be at the Yulee Clinic (86014 Pages Dairy Rd.) from 1-3pm on the first Wednesday of every month and at the Callahan Clinic (45377 Mickler St.) from 1-3pm on the third Wednesday of every month. To make an appointment, call DOH-Nassau at 904-875-6110 the Friday or Monday before the date the van is scheduled to be at the clinic. A parent or guardian must accompany the child to the appointment.

JUNE 2018: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

Confirmed, Probable, Suspect Cases of Multiple Diseases with Report Date 06/01/18 to 06/31/18 with Three-Year Period
Comparison for Nassau County

Disease Name	Selection Date		Comparison Date 1		Comparison Date 2		Comparison Date 3	
	06/01/18-06/30/18		06/01/17-06/30/17		06/01/16-06/30/16		06/01/15-06/30/15	
	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
NASSAU COUNTY								
Campylobacteriosis	2	7.7%	3	15.0%	5	20.0%	0	0.0%
Cryptosporidiosis	1	3.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Ehrlichiosis, HME (<i>Ehrlichia chaffeensis</i>)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.3%
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%
Giardiasis, Acute	3	11.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	0.0%	1	5.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1	3.8%	0	0.0%	2	8.0%	0	0.0%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	15	57.7%	11	55.0%	11	44.0%	11	57.9%
Rabies, Animal	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.3%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	21.1%
Salmonellosis	3	11.5%	4	20.0%	5	20.0%	2	10.5%
Shigellosis	0	0.0%	1	5.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	1	3.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	26	100.0%	20	100.0%	25	100.0%	19	100.0%
STATEWIDE								
Campylobacteriosis	487	7.1%	459	8.5%	341	6.0%	417	9.0%
Cryptosporidiosis	36	0.5%	36	0.7%	29	0.5%	63	1.4%
Ehrlichiosis, HME (<i>Ehrlichia chaffeensis</i>)	2	0.0%	3	0.1%	11	0.2%	6	0.1%
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection	91	1.3%	62	1.2%	58	1.0%	39	0.8%
Giardiasis, Acute	88	1.3%	78	1.5%	111	1.9%	93	2.0%
Hepatitis B, Acute	99	1.4%	68	1.3%	58	1.0%	42	0.9%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	514	7.5%	426	7.9%	435	7.6%	384	8.3%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	2691	39.3%	2230	41.5%	3157	55.2%	2050	44.4%
Rabies, Animal	20	0.3%	9	0.2%	7	0.1%	5	0.1%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	347	5.1%	315	5.9%	317	5.5%	351	7.6%
Salmonellosis	720	10.5%	662	12.3%	587	10.3%	578	12.5%
Shigellosis	149	2.2%	170	3.2%	92	1.6%	269	5.8%
Varicella (Chickenpox)	89	1.3%	42	0.8%	50	0.9%	46	1.0%
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	28	0.4%	19	0.4%	25	0.4%	26	0.6%
Other remaining conditions in FL (not shared with Nassau County)	1483	21.7%	791	14.7%	440	7.7%	247	5.4%
TOTAL	6844	100.0	5370	100.0%	5718	100.0%	4616	100.0%

Table 3. Confirmed, probable, and suspect case counts for reportable diseases and conditions in Nassau County and Florida, June 2015 through June 2018.

For more information on disease reporting and a list of reportable diseases and conditions, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/index.html>

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 06/11/18: Health Officials Issue Mosquito-Borne Illness Advisory
- ✦ Press Release 06/14/18: Florida Health in Nassau County Reminds the Public of Precautions to Help Prevent Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis, Accidental Drownings, and Promote Sun Safety
- ✦ Press Release 06/22/18: Florida Department of Health in Nassau County Protects Nassau County from Emergencies and Disasters through National “Public Health Ready” Recognition Program

Protect yourself from mosquito-borne disease– Drain and Cover!

Nassau County is currently under a mosquito-borne illness advisory. Whether you’re staying at home or traveling abroad, preventing mosquito bites is the best way to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease. Mosquitoes can be found in many different environments and you may not always notice when you have been bitten. Mosquito activity in Florida can be year round. The following are some steps that can be taken to help prevent mosquito bites.

DRAIN: water from garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

DISCARD: Old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.

EMPTY and CLEAN: Birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.

PROTECT: Boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

MAINTAIN: The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

CLOTHING: If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.

REPELLENT: Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, and IR3535 are effective. Use netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

For more information on mosquito bite prevention and repellent use, please visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/prevention.html>

**FREE SCHOOL PHYSICALS**

- ✦ The Coalition for the Reduction/Elimination of Disparities in Health (CREED) will host the annual back to school event in partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Nassau County (DOH-Nassau) and other local organizations on Saturday, August 4th. The event will be from 9am-2pm at the Peck Center (516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach). Free school physicals will be available at the event and school supplies will be given away in the gymnasium starting at 10am. A parent or guardian must accompany the child for the school physical.
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