

2008 Illness Outbreaks in Review

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Public Health Notes

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*Public Health Notes is a newsletter for
health care professionals in
Kalamazoo County.*

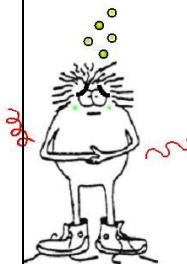
Public Health Notes

is also available online:

[www.kalcounty.com/
hsd/phnotes.htm](http://www.kalcounty.com/hsd/phnotes.htm)

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(269) 373-5267*

As the winter issue of Public Health Notes goes to press, HCS Disease Surveillance is in the midst of monitoring multiple with ongoing GI illness outbreaks across the county. At present, there are four suspected norovirus outbreaks in area skilled care or assisted living facilities. The first suspected norovirus outbreak of the season began last November. In early December, we obtained lab specimens from another outbreak, thus culturally confirming the organism's presence here in Kalamazoo County. Norovirus presents somewhat differently than other GI illnesses. Nonetheless, every year we pursue lab confirmation from one or two outbreaks to provide verification.



We tend to see more norovirus during the cold weather.

However, in 2008, there was an outbreak in April and another in June. Typically, outbreaks tend to hit schools, nursing homes, and assisted care facilities. In 2008, there were a total of 19 GI illness outbreaks investigated by HCS. Most of these were norovirus. In December, MDCH updated its norovirus control and disinfection guidelines. These updated documents are available from HCS Disease Surveillance at 269-373-5267.

There were also other outbreaks in 2008. We investigated seven influenza outbreaks in area skilled care facilities. Five of the seven facilities reported resident vaccination rates of between 90-100%. One facility had a 77% vaccination rate. Another's rate was over 85%. Vaccination rates for staff were all lower, in all facilities. These outbreaks reflect the general conclusion that last year's influenza vaccine was less effective than in previous years. We also followed-up on a report of a canine influenza outbreak that began in an out-of-county animal rescue shelter.

Last August, there was a cluster of four epidemiologically linked aseptic meningitis cases between Kalamazoo and Berrien counties.

While not officially an outbreak at the dawn of the New Year, Kalamazoo has had an increase in pertussis cases since last fall. Between September 15th and December 31st, there were 37 probable and lab-confirmed cases. By contrast, during the same time period in 2007, there were only nine probable and lab-confirmed cases. In the last week of January, MDCH acknowledged a "significant increase" in reported cases in the second half of 2008. This compelled state officials to remind both parents and health care providers of the importance of vaccinating infants, teens and adults with pertussis-containing vaccine. As of the first week in February, there have been 15 probable and lab-confirmed pertussis cases for 2009. These cases are scattered throughout the county with clusters in several schools and day cares. HCS is working very closely with these facilities to provide contact and control measures.

Mike Phillips, RN, HCS Disease Surveillance



Chlamydia by the Numbers

Chlamydia remains the most commonly reported disease in the U.S. per Center for Disease Control January 2009.

In 2007, 1,108,374 Chlamydia diagnoses were reported, up from 1,030,911 in 2006. The 2007 total represents the largest number of cases ever reported to CDC for any condition. CDC estimates that there are approximately 2.8 million new cases of Chlamydia in the U.S. each year, indicating that more than half of new cases remain undiagnosed and unreported. In 2007, MDCH listed the highest numbers of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cases in Michigan **age 15-19 years old** diagnosed by outpatient clinics, hospitals, doctor's offices, and other health facilities within Michigan or in other states.

*There once was a waitress
named Lydia
Who had a bad case of
Chlamydia...*

*...She bed-hopped a bunch
Serving up more than lunch*

As we know, Chlamydia is a bacterial infection that can be cured with antibiotics but usually has no symptoms, thus leading to possible long-term complications such as infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain in women and epididymitis, urethritis, and sterility in men. The CDC recommends annual screening for all sexually active women under the age of 26, as well as older women with risk factors such as multiple sex partners. The CDC research has shown that coupling Chlamydia tests with routine Pap testing can increase the number of women screened. Reducing the impact of Chlamydia among women requires testing and treating Chlamydia among males. Studies have shown that many young women diagnosed with Chlamydia may become re-infected by a male partner who has not been diagnosed or treated.

The CDC 2006 STD Treatment Guidelines recommend that all persons be retested for Chlamydia approximately three months after treatment. The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services has a clinic for STD testing and treatment. The clinic is open Monday through Friday and is located in the Nazareth Campus Building 3299 Gull Road, Floor 1, Wing 1. Please call 269-373-5203 to speak to a health professional. Should you want more information about Chlamydia or other STDs you can access www.cdc.gov/std or www.michigan.gov/hiv-aids-std.

Julie Beeching, RN
HCS STD/Imms Clinics

*...So if you slept with poor
Lydia,
.....I pity ya.*

Hib Disease Update

There have been five recent cases of Haemophilus influenzae type B disease in Minnesota. All five cases were in children less than 3 years of age, one of whom died. All five cases were either unimmunized or only partially immunized. Michigan had 2 cases of Hib disease in 2008. This is concerning given the limited supply of Hib vaccine in the United States.

During this vaccine shortage, national advisory groups recommend that the final booster dose of Hib vaccine be deferred for toddlers (age 12-15 months) with the exception of those at increased risk for Hib disease. The recent breakthrough cases of Hib may represent an increase in carriage from not having a booster dose for more than one year. The recommended interim Hib schedule is available online:

www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Updated_Hib_Interim_schedule_042908_233902_7.pdf.

More information can be found at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/. Search for January 23, 2009 / 58. KCHCS Immunization Clinic is located in Nazareth at 3299 Gull Road, first wing, first floor. Regular clinic hours are 9 a.m.–3 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; and 10 a.m.–6 p.m. on Thursday.

Lynne Norman, RN
HCS Disease Surveillance

Tuberculin Skin Test Training Dates

Medical personnel involved in TB skin testing are welcome to attend our free workshops for certification or recertification. We are also a regional site for Train the Trainer (TTT), a one-hour class to teach a person to be a trainer to provide the classes at your site.

Classes are held in Conference Room D in the Garden Level of the Nazareth Health and Community Services building. Once the 4-hour Certification course has been passed, a 2-hour Recertification can be taken every 2 years. The following is the 2009 schedule:

<u>Training</u> – 8:00–Noon	<u>Recertification</u> – 8:30–10:30
April 23	April 16
July 16	October 15
October 7 (TTT Noon-1:00)	

The workshops are free and continuing education credit is offered. Registration is required.

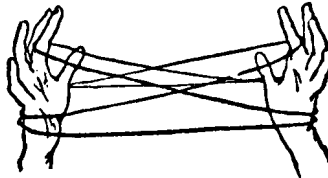
If you would like to attend one of these classes, please call (269) 373-5267. Recertification is recommended every three years.

Travel Clinic

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department now offers travel services, by appointment ONLY. When you are planning your trip, arrange to have your Travel Clinic appointment at least eight weeks prior to your trip. To schedule an appointment, call 269-373-5126.

Travel services are provided for anyone planning travel out of the country and include a consultation as well as the appropriate vaccines. Please note, no vaccines will be given without a consultation through our clinic.

C. JoAnn Hyde, RN
HCS CD Consultant



Keep Us in Your Loop

Has your organization changed its name? Is your telephone number still the same?

Have you moved your work to a different location? We need to have this information!

Have you added an office? Is your fax number new? Do you want to be contacted by e-mail, too?

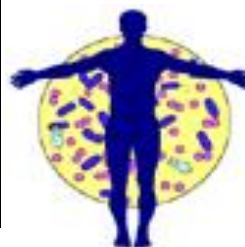
Keeping us current on how to connect means health alerts reach you with timely effect;

So please, let us know when you have revised the numbers we use to keep you apprised.

If any of the above applies to you now, give us the details! Here's how:

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Rosemarie Patrick
HCS Disease Surveillance



Health Services Bureau Disease Surveillance Program (269) 373-5267	
Published 02/2009	Code 426
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