

The Pump Handle



"I had an interview with the Board of Guardians of St. James's parish, on the evening of Thursday, 7th September, and represented the above circumstances to them. In consequence of what I said, the handle of the pump was removed on the following day."

John Snow, 1855

December 2005 Topics

- Influenza Update
- New Pertussis Treatment Guidelines
- NDDoH HIV/AIDS Program Welcomes New Employee
- Perinatal Hepatitis B Case Management and Treatment Recommendations



Influenza Update

As of December 30, a total of 26 human laboratory-identified influenza infections had been reported to the NDDoH from Bowman, Burleigh, Cass, Dickey, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Kidder, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, Stark, Walsh and Ward counties. At this time last year 79 human influenza cases had been reported to the NDDoH.

Of the 26 reported influenza cases, 81 percent were identified as type A, eight percent type B and 11 percent are unknown A or B. Five influenza type A viruses were identified as H3N2 subtypes. There have been no reported influenza/pneumonia associated deaths so far this season.

The NDDoH is encouraging influenza specimen submission for viral isolation in order to identify what type and strain is circulating in the community. If a patient tests positive via a rapid test, call the NDDoH at 800.472.2180 for consultation. (Free testing will be provided until influenza has been characterized in your community.)

For more information about influenza and the surveillance program, visit the NDDoH website at www.ndflu.com.



New Pertussis Treatment Guidelines

Updated recommendations for the treatment and post-exposure prophylaxis of pertussis were published in the Dec. 9, 2005, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). Previously, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended erythromycin as the treatment and prophylaxis of choice for pertussis. The new recommendations include additional antimicrobial agents that can be used, such as azithromycin and clarithromycin.

The new CDC guidelines are available at
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5414a1.htm.



NDDoH HIV/AIDS Program Welcomes New Employee

The North Dakota Department of Health welcomes Dhidha Timona, the new HIV Prevention Coordinator/TB Consultant. Timona will work with the HIV/AIDS/TB program staff and manager to coordinate HIV prevention activities and assist with TB program activities. Two major tasks of the HIV prevention activities include the implementation of the Program Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS), which will be used for data collection, data entry and data transmission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for all HIV prevention interventions and writing the Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan. Additional job duties include providing guidance and technical assistance to HIV counseling, testing and referral sites, organizing HIV training and education, coordinating the Community Planning Group (serving as the state appointed co-chair), providing TB consultation and education and assisting with latent TB infection activities.



Perinatal Hepatitis B Case Management and Treatment Recommendations

On December 23rd, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) released the first of a two-part MMWR series regarding updated recommendations to eliminate hepatitis B virus (HBV) transmission in the United States. The report provides updated recommendations to improve prevention of perinatal and early childhood HBV transmission, including implementation of universal infant vaccination beginning at birth and to increase vaccine coverage among previously unvaccinated children and adolescents.

[Click here to view the entire document.](#)

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Julie Goplin, Molly Sander, Michelle Feist, Tracy Miller and Kirby Kruger. For questions, suggestions or inquiries, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Julie Goplin of the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2375 or by email at jgoplin@state.nd.us.

The pump handle picture in the title was obtained from the website www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html.



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