

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 2011 Topics

- Reports of Novel Influenza A (H3N2) in the United States
- Foodborne Outbreak at a County Jail in North Dakota
- Save the Date! HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium and Hepatitis C Training Workshop: April 10 - 12, 2012
- Coming in 2012.....New Educational Resources!
- Mosquito Control Assistance for Small Communities



Reports of Novel Influenza A (H3N2) in the United States

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting an increase in reports of a novel H3N2 strain, which has been identified in isolated situations in five states. North Dakota currently has not reported a case related to this event. In total, 12 cases of a novel influenza A (H3N2) have been reported nationwide. The median age of these cases is 3 years with a range of 11 months to 59 years.

The virus previously has been found in U.S. swine and some cases have been associated with direct or close swine contact as well as person-to-person transmission. The virus is substantially different from seasonal (human) influenza A (H3N2) viruses, but is distantly related to human influenza viruses that circulated among people before 1990. For this reason some adults may have residual immunity against this virus, but it appears that children are widely susceptible to these viruses.

We are asking that providers report any increases in influenza-like illness (fever and cough/sore throat) to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) as well as any patients with influenza-like illness who indicate that they have recent direct or indirect

contact with swine within a week of illness onset. The NDDoH also is asking providers to report patients presenting with influenza-like illness that may be associated with outbreaks, particularly in children attending school and child care. The NDDoH may request collecting specimens for influenza testing at the Division of Laboratory Services in the event of an influenza-like illness outbreak. All patients who are hospitalized with influenza-like illness without another known cause should have a specimen submitted for testing at the NDDoH Division of Laboratory Services. Rapid testing for this virus at this time appears to be sensitive to identifying the virus, though some cases have tested rapid negative.

If you have questions or concerns, or to report an influenza case (including rapid positives), contact the Division of Disease Control at 800.472.2180. Reporting of cases or outbreaks also can be done online by going to www.ndflu.com/Reporting/OnLineReporting.aspx. If you have questions about influenza testing, contact the Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272.

More information on the novel influenza A H3N2 viruses can be found by visiting www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm.



Foodborne Outbreak at a County Jail in North Dakota

On November 28, 2011, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) received notice that inmates at a county jail in eastern North Dakota became ill the previous evening with symptoms of diarrhea and/or vomiting.

The NDDoH collected stool specimens at the jail and designed a self-administered questionnaire for inmates and staff to complete. Of the 180 inmates at the facility during the outbreak, questionnaires were collected for 118 (66%) inmates and 46 staff. Cases were defined as experiencing vomiting and/or diarrhea on or after November 27. Eighty-seven (74%) cases were identified among inmates and zero cases were identified among staff. Of the 87 cases, 80 (92%) were male and 7 (8%) were female. Frequently reported symptoms among cases included diarrhea (99%), stomach cramps (94%), nausea (67%), headache (53%), chills (47%) and vomiting (25%). The duration of illness ranged from 7.5 hours to 93 hours (median = 29 hours).

Analysis of the meal items served at the county jail revealed the food item with the greatest significance was chili macaroni served at dinner on Sunday, November 27, 2011. This food item had an odds ratio of 75, confidence interval of 14.96 to 465.05 and a p-value of less than 0.05. The incubation period for this meal ranged from 30 minutes to 30 hours (median = 6 hours).

Based on the incubation period and symptom information, the etiologic agent that may have caused this outbreak could likely be a toxin-producing bacteria. Stool samples tested at the Department of Laboratory Services were negative for norovirus, *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Shigella* and *Campylobacter*. The samples have been sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta for toxin testing, with results pending.

If you have questions or concerns, or need to report a possible foodborne incident, please contact the NDDoH at 701.328.2378.



Save the Date! HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium and Hepatitis C Training

Workshop: April 10 - 12, 2012

Save the Date! The 2012 HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium will be held April 11 and 12, 2012, at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck, N.D. A pre-conference hepatitis C training workshop will be held at the Radisson on April 10, 2012.

The symposium will include both plenary and breakout sessions, and the following topics will be presented:

- HIV/STDs/TB/Viral hepatitis in North Dakota
- Support group development
- New hepatitis C treatments
- Sex, drugs and HIV
- Cultural differences of TB clients
- Aging of HIV patients
- Rapid hepatitis C testing
- MSM partner services
- Advances in TB
- Expedited partner therapy in North Dakota
- Men's sexual health

The audience for the symposium includes all health-care workers, social workers and addiction counselors who provide services to individuals with HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis or viral hepatitis. The symposium will provide an opportunity to receive education and resources to improve the capacity to provide these services.

Prior to the symposium, there will be a hepatitis C training workshop on April 10, 2012, at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck, N.D. This training is targeted to health educators, HIV/STD counselors and testers, medical providers, substance abuse counselors, case managers, support group leaders, patients and other health professionals who will provide education, support and advocacy for people and populations affected by hepatitis C.

The topics presented at the hepatitis C training workshop will include:

- The liver.
- Hepatitis C transmission and prevention.
- Diagnostic tools.
- Symptoms and disease progression.
- Disease management.
- Treatments.
- Complementary medicine.

Continuing education credits are being requested for the HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium and the hepatitis C training workshop from the North Dakota Board of Nursing, North Dakota Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners and the North Dakota

Board of Social Workers. Registration forms and additional information on the trainings being offered will soon be available at www.ndhealth.gov/disease.

For more information, please contact Julie Wagendorf or Sarah Weninger at 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180.



Coming in 2012.....New Educational Resources!

New educational resources are going to be available in 2012.

1. New updated influenza brochures for parents, pregnant women and people with chronic illnesses will be available to order free of charge, along with other influenza brochures and posters, at www.ndflu.com/Education/Influenza/FluOrder.aspx.
2. New tick cards also are available to order free of charge at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Tickborne/Education/default.htm, along with tick brochures and bookmarks. The tick card offers information about tick identification, tips for avoiding ticks and how to properly remove a tick, all in a convenient size that you can carry in a wallet for a quick reference.
3. New rabies educational resources also have been developed. Magnets and door hangers will be used to provide information on rabies prevention for both domestic and wild animals. These materials can be used to hand out during presentations, provide information to people who were involved in a rabies exposure situation, and to address hard-to-reach populations on the importance of vaccinating pets and avoiding contact with wild animals.

Two new manuals also have been developed by the division and will be made available in 2012.

1. The Child Care/School Infection Control Manual will be distributed to schools and child care centers. This manual provides exclusion recommendations for diseases, prevention and control of diseases and food safety.
2. The Foodborne Outbreak Investigation Manual will be distributed to epidemiologists, environmental health practitioners and laboratorians in North Dakota. This manual will provide information on the roles and responsibilities of those involved in foodborne outbreak investigations, as well as provide essential activities, objectives and tools for the epidemiologic, environmental and laboratory investigations during an outbreak.



Mosquito Control Assistance for Small Communities

2011 marked the third year the Division of Disease Control made mosquito control funds available to smaller North Dakota communities who have limited resources for mosquito control. A large number of communities in the state do not have comprehensive vector control programs with regular funding to carry out activities. This limited, one-time funding was distributed to 45 communities across the state to purchase mosquito control products.

Over the course of the three years, approximately \$130,000 was distributed to a total of 75 communities in North Dakota and was used to combat mosquito populations, in particular, during community-wide celebrations, tournaments, centennials and other outdoor community events.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Lindsey VanderBusch, Sarah Weninger, Alicia Lepp, Michelle Feist, Julie Wagendorf, Tracy Miller, and Kirby Kruger. For questions, suggestions or inquiries, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Sarah Weninger of the Division of Disease Control, at 701.328.2366 or by e-mail at sweninger@nd.gov.

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



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