

# 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

## May 2013 Topics

- Salmonella Infection from Baby Poultry
- North Dakota Department of Health Holds Press Conference with Family of Man who Died from West Nile Virus
- North Dakota Department of Health Hosts Rabies WebEx Series
- HIV and Syphilis are Impacting North Dakota



### **Salmonella Infection from Baby Poultry**

The North Dakota Department of Health has linked six cases of salmonellosis to exposure to baby chicks. The cases are associated with a multi-state outbreak of salmonellosis being investigated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of June 6, 2013, a total of 224 people from 34 states have been linked to this outbreak. Investigation findings have connected this outbreak to exposure to baby chicks, ducklings and other live baby poultry purchased from multiple feed stores and sourced from multiple mail order hatcheries.

Contact with live poultry can be a source of human *Salmonella* infections. Chicks and ducklings may be shedding salmonella even if they appear healthy. The bacteria can be found on its feathers, beak and feet and also on cages, coops, hay or any other environment where poultry live and roam.

Follow these guidelines to reduce the risk of salmonella infections from baby poultry:

- Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam.

- Do not let children younger than five years of age, older adults or people with weak immune systems handle or touch live poultry.
- Do not snuggle or kiss the birds, touch your mouth, or eat or drink around live poultry.
- Do not let live poultry inside the house, especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served or stored.
- Do not give live baby poultry as gifts to young children.



### **North Dakota Department of Health Holds Press Conference with Family of Man who Died from West Nile Virus**

The North Dakota Department of Health and family members of a man who died from West Nile virus (WNV) joined together for a press conference on May 29, 2013. The family wanted to help raise awareness about the seriousness of WNV disease and how WNV has changed the lives of their family and others who have struggled with the illness.

Bridgette Readel and Kary Lindgren are daughters of Kim Rath, 58, of Wishek who became ill in 2012 and died February 8, 2013, after an extensive illness with WNV. Bridgette and Kary delivered a powerful message as they described their father's disease progression and the symptoms he encountered leading up to his death. The family cautioned people that WNV can happen to anyone, even if the person is otherwise healthy and encouraged people to seek a medical professional and get tested if they are sick.

The North Dakota Department of Health offers free WNV testing during the transmission season (June 1-September 30). West Nile virus IgM antibody testing is provided at the Division of Laboratory Services and will be conducted on serum samples. Serum and the completed laboratory test request form (SFN 5826) should be sent to the Division of Laboratory Services, 2635 East Main Avenue, P.O. Box 5520, Bismarck, ND 58506-5520. If you have questions regarding testing/shipping, please contact the Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272.

West Nile virus activity updates will be posted weekly on the NDDoH WNV website at [www.ndhealth.gov/wnv/](http://www.ndhealth.gov/wnv/).

*The North Dakota Department of Health would like to thank the Kim Rath family for sharing their story and for helping raise awareness about West Nile virus in North Dakota.*



### **North Dakota Department of Health Hosts Rabies WebEx Series**

The North Dakota Department of Health has seen an increase in animals testing positive for rabies. In 2012, 75 animals that were tested for rabies in North Dakota were positive, increasing from 23 in 2011. As a result of the increase in rabid animals, the North Dakota Department of Health along with the North Dakota Board of Animal Health developed a series of three, one-hour rabies webinar trainings. The three trainings focused on the

history of rabies, what constitutes an exposure to rabies, recommendations for quarantining and euthanizing an animal exposed to rabies, and recommendations for pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis.

The webinar series consists of individual presentations for veterinarians, peace officers and health-care professionals. Each presentation was recorded and archived on the North Dakota Department of Health's rabies website under the trainings link at [www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Rabies/](http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Rabies/).



### **HIV and Syphilis are Impacting North Dakota**

Increasing numbers of HIV cases across North Dakota highlights the importance of screening individuals at risk for HIV, syphilis or other STDs. In addition to increasing numbers of new HIV infections in North Dakota, several of these new infections were also co-infected with syphilis. Screening recommendations for HIV and syphilis include the following individuals:

<u>HIV Screening Recommendations</u>	<u>Syphilis Screening Recommendations</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All patients ages 13 to 64 years</li><li>• Individuals testing positive for TB</li><li>• All patients seeking treatment for STDs</li><li>• At least annual screening for high-risk individuals:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Injection-drug users and their sex partners</li><li>○ People who exchange sex for money or drugs</li><li>○ Sex partners of HIV-infected individuals</li><li>○ People with multiple sex partners</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women who are pregnant</li><li>• Men who have sex with men</li><li>• Anybody with HIV infection</li><li>• Partner(s) who have tested positive for syphilis</li></ul>

Thus far in 2013, there have been 16 new HIV infections in North Dakota. This is the same number of new HIV infections diagnosed for the entire year in 2012. The increase in new HIV infections is being seen across the state of North Dakota and not isolated in one geographic region. The North Dakota Department of Health encourages health-care providers to follow screening recommendations for HIV. STD and HIV data for 2012 can be found at [www.ndhealth.gov/STD/Data/STDData.htm](http://www.ndhealth.gov/STD/Data/STDData.htm) and [www.ndhealth.gov/HIV/HIV%20Data/HIV%20data.htm](http://www.ndhealth.gov/HIV/HIV%20Data/HIV%20data.htm).

For further information on HIV and STDs in North Dakota, please contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.2378.

*Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Alicia Lepp, Michelle Feist, Sarah Weninger, 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](mailto:sweninger@nd.gov).*

*The pump handle picture in the title was obtained from the website [www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html).*



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