

EpiNews

Palm Beach County Health Department
Division of Epidemiology & Disease Control
1050 15th Street West, Riviera Beach, FL 33404
Savita Kumar, MD, MSPH, Director



PHONE: (561) 840-4564 SC 263-4564
Weekends/Evenings: (561) 840-4500

FAX: (561) 845-4496 SC 263-4496
E-Mail: DeniseA_Pagan@doh.state.fl.us

October 1999

Disease Highlights:

Influenza: In September, three confirmed cases of Influenza A were reported to this division. Two cases occurred in residents of an assisted care living facility in the southern part of the county. The other case was young child. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the optimal time for vaccinating patients is between mid-October and mid-November. However, high risk patients should receive the vaccine as soon as possible. All Palm Beach County Health Department Centers will provide influenza vaccinations to the public from October 1999 through February 2000.

E. coli 0157:H7: Three confirmed cases of E. coli 0157:H7 were reported to the Palm Beach County Health Department last month. Cases had eaten out as well as at home. No common link was found among the cases.

Cyclospora Outbreak: During June and July, the CDC conducted an investigation of an outbreak of cyclospora among attendees of a convention held at a Palm Beach hotel. The convention occurred in mid-May and most attendees were from out of state. Two hundred seventy-four people were exposed. Ninety-four people were ill.

Communications:

Epi Updates: This weekly publication from the Bureau of Epidemiology at the Department of Health offers news and information about current epidemiologic events in the state. It can be found on the Internet at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us>.

In the News:

St Louis Encephalitis (SLE): The mosquitoes are here! At this time of year, the sentinel chicken flocks throughout the county are tested weekly for indications of SLE activity in the environment. These chickens will also be tested to see if the West Nile virus, newly discovered in New York and Connecticut, is in Florida. Four chickens have tested positive for SLE as of the end of September. The positive chickens have been in Loxahatchee (2), Pahokee and Delray Beach. Although there has been one human case of SLE in Sarasota County, no human cases have been reported in Palm Beach County. Precautions should be taken to avoid biting mosquitoes from dusk to dawn. Appropriate clothing such as long pants, socks and long sleeves should be worn and insect repellents containing DEET should be used when outdoors at dusk and at night.

National Adult Immunization Awareness Week – October 10 through October 16, 1999: Adults should be immunized against influenza, pneumococcal pneumonia and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Many adult Floridians remain unprotected against influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia which together are the nation's fifth leading cause of death of older adults.

Source of information: Hank Janowski, Chief, Bureau of Immunization Florida Dept. of Health, Epi Update 10/1/99



**Communicable Diseases and Selected Public Health Indices
Palm Beach County, Florida**

**Enteric, Hepatitis, Meningitis, AIDS, HIV, STD, TB,
Live Births, Infant Deaths, Foodborne Outbreaks,
Childhood Lead Testing**

**2nd Quarter
April-June 1999**

	Number This Qtr.	Number To Date This Yr.	Number to Date Last Yr.
<i>Enteric, Hepatitis, Meningitis</i>			
Campylobacteriosis	24	41	32
Shigellosis	21	48	129
Salmonellosis	44	73	63
Hepatitis A	3	9	24
Giardiasis	16	20	28
Hepatitis B	11	13	8
Meningitis & Invasive Disease due to Neisseria Meningitidis	2	6	3
Meningitis & Invasive Disease due to Haemophilus Influenzae	1	1	3
<i>AIDS</i>			
# New AIDS Cases Reported (Adult/Adolescent)	107	223	290
Cumulative AIDS Cases Since 1980 (Adult/Adolescent)	N/A	6746	6301
Cumulative AIDS Cases Since 1980 (Pediatric)	N/A	195	189
Cumulative AIDS Cases Since 1980 (Total)	N/A	6941	6490
<i>HIV***</i>			
# HIV Tested	4077	7279	6859
# HIV Positive	174	308	176
% HIV Positive	4.3	4.2	2.6
<i>STD</i>			
Primary/Secondary Syphilis	7	16	4
Congenital Syphilis	0	0	0
Gonorrhea	257	474	447
Chlamydia	522	888	473
<i>Tuberculosis</i>			
Total Tuberculosis Cases	73	113	54
Total Tuberculosis Cases <15 Yrs. of Age	3	4	0
<i>Live Births</i>			
Total Infant Births	3095	6136	6260
Infant Births, White	2255	4431	4495
Infant Births, Non-White	839	1702	1757
<i>Infant Deaths</i>			
Total Infant Deaths	30	49	42
Infant Deaths, White	21	35	20
Infant Deaths, Non-White	9	14	22
<i>Food Related Complaints and Outbreaks</i>			
Number of Complaints	102	181	229
Suspected Foodborne Illness Outbreaks	4	6	15
Confirmed Foodborne Illness Outbreaks	3	3	1
<i>Childhood Lead Testing</i>			
Lead Poisoning (Venous Testing >=10)	29	35	40

Data provided is provisional

N/A = Not Applicable

***Data Representing PBCHD clients only

**Data Unavailable

Palm Beach County Health Department
For Information - Please call (561) 840-4564
S. Kumar, M.D., MSPH, Director
Denise Pagán, Program Specialist