

# EpiNews

**Palm Beach County Health Department**  
**Division of Epidemiology & Disease Control**  
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**April 2002**

## ***PRESS RELEASE: RESIDENTS OF NORTH COUNTY ON LOOKOUT FOR RACCOONS***

By Timothy O'Connor  
Public Information Officer  
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The sixth raccoon since February 1, 2002 tested positive for rabies today prompting Animal Care and Control and the Palm Beach County Health Department to advise residents from Palm Beach Gardens north to be on the lookout for and avoid contact with wild and stray animals.

Five of the six rabid animals found so far this year were from areas near or north of Donald Ross Rd and have included, Palm Beach Gardens, Juno Beach, Jupiter, and Jupiter Farms. The most recent case, the first with human contact, occurred Saturday, March 30 when a raccoon scratched a Juno Beach resident, near Zephyr Street, and tested positive for rabies. The male will be given rabies shots as a precaution.

Rabies is an invariably fatal, acute viral disease that is preventable if adults and children follow basic precautions. Residents are reminded to not feed wildlife, stray cats or dogs and to discourage wild and stray animals by securing garbage cans and outdoor containers.

Domestic animals, dogs and cats, over four months of age are required to be vaccinated against rabies and wear a current rabies license tag. Shots can be obtained through a veterinarian or by calling Animal Care and Control at 561-233-1272.

## ***NEW HEPATITIS PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK PATIENTS***

The Palm Beach County Health Department Division of Epidemiology has begun a program addressing the need for hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine in adults at increased risk for hepatitis.

Free hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine will be available to individuals with the following health conditions or risk factors:

- Men who have sex with men
- Persons who have ever used IV drugs
- Persons who have clotting factor disorders
- Hemodialysis patients
- Household and sex contacts of HBV + persons
- Heterosexual persons with multiple sex partners (during lifetime)
- Persons that received a blood transfusion or organ transplant prior to 1992
- Persons that have been told they have elevated liver enzymes
- Born to a hepatitis C + mother
- Persons with chronic liver disease  
(includes from chronic alcohol abuse or hepatitis)

For more information, please call (561) 840-4568 or toll free from Boca Raton, Delray and Belle Glade area, 930-3344.

## **DISEASE HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Cyclosporiasis:** Since the beginning of the year, there have been 3 cases of cyclosporiasis, 2 in Palm Beach County and 1 in Broward County. All are males, ages 45-54, with onsets ranging from 2/7 – 2/13/2002. Two cases have recent travel histories. Two cases also have eaten berries. The Division of Environmental Epidemiology is continuing with its investigation to see if there are any common exposures.
- **Dengue Fever:** With recent epidemics in Central America, South America and the Caribbean, the Department of Health (DOH) has enhanced its surveillance for dengue fever. In a March 20, 2002 press release, DOH recommends eliminating mosquito-breeding sites since dengue fever is a mosquito-borne illness, and the two types of mosquitoes that transmit the disease are found in Florida.

**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**

**4th Quarter  
October – December 2001**

	<b>Number This Qtr.</b>	<b>Number To Date This Yr.</b>	<b>Number To Date Last Yr.</b>
<b><i>Enteric, Hepatitis, Meningitis</i></b>			
Campylobacteriosis	31	104	96
Shigellosis	14	41	30
Salmonellosis	64	201	187
Giardiasis	37	86	77
Hepatitis A	23	56	85
Hepatitis B	13	43	25
Meningitis & Invasive Disease due to Neisseria Meningitidis	0	4	9
Meningitis & Invasive Disease due to Haemophilus Influenzae	1	9	12
<b><i>AIDS</i></b>			
# New AIDS Cases Reported (Adult/Adolescent)	171	486	551
<b><i>HIV***</i></b>			
# HIV Tested	4615	18024	17541
# HIV Positive	194	699	637
% HIV Positive	4.2	3.9	3.6
<b><i>STD</i></b>			
Primary/Secondary Syphilis	5	27	52
Congenital Syphilis	1	3	3
Gonorrhea	231	888	986
Chlamydia	522	1981	1635
<b><i>Tuberculosis</i></b>			
Total Tuberculosis Cases	35	77	77
Total Tuberculosis Cases <15 Yrs. of Age	2	3	2
<b><i>Live Births</i></b>			
Total Infant Births	3398	13527	13291
Infant Births, White	2334	9349	9220
Infant Births, Non-White	1061	4163	4048
<b><i>Infant Deaths</i></b>			
Total Infant Deaths	23	89	93
Infant Deaths, White	14	49	40
Infant Deaths, Non-White	9	40	53
<b><i>Food Related Complaints and Outbreaks</i></b>			
Number of Complaints	59	291	322
Suspected Foodborne Illness Outbreaks	0	12	11
Confirmed Foodborne Illness Outbreaks	1	2	3
<b><i>Childhood Lead Testing</i></b>			
Lead Poisoning	49	71	43

Data provided is provisional

N/A = Not Applicable

\*\*\*Data Representing PBCHD clients only

\*\*Data Unavailable

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For Information - Please call (561) 840-4564  
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