Florida Department of Health in Volusia County Fall 2018

Epi-Log

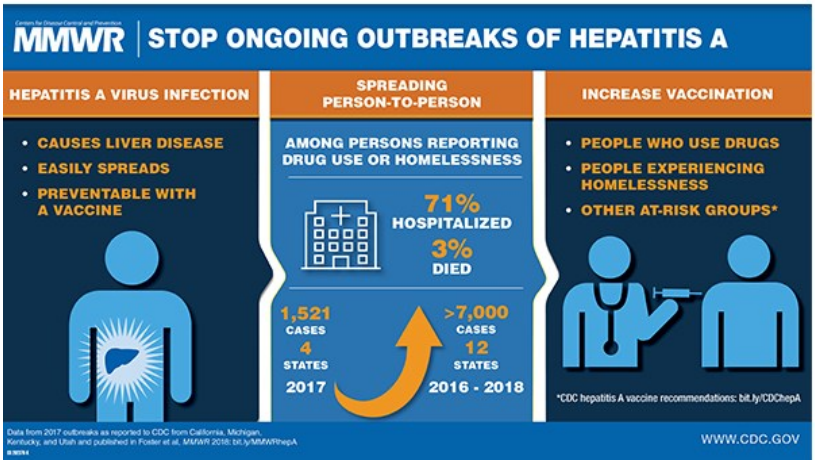
Hepatitis A

In Florida, the number of hepatitis A cases more than doubled from 2016 to 2017. In 2018, Florida has had 414 reported cases of HAV.

Hepatitis A is an infectious disease of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV) that is transmitted person-to-person through the fecal-oral route or through consumption of fecal-contaminated food or water. HAV is a vaccine-preventable disease. The best way to prevent getting infected with HAV is to get vaccinated. HAV is a self-limiting illness that can last up to two months. The symptoms are fatigue, low appetite, abdominal pain, nausea, and jaundice. The antibodies that are produced in response to hepatitis A infection, as well as the vaccine, provide lifelong immunity against the virus and you cannot be re-infected.

Since March of 2017, an outbreak of HAV infections among persons who use drugs and persons who are homelessness has impacted 10 states, including Florida. Risk factors of being infected with HAV include drug use, homelessness, recent incarceration, men who have sex with men, direct contact with someone with HAV, or international travel.

If you have not been vaccinated and come into contact with someone with HAV, it is recommended that you receive post-exposure prophylaxis for hepatitis A within two weeks of the initial exposure. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that all children at one year of age be vaccinated, along with anyone who is at increased risk for infection. The hepatitis A vaccine can be received at the health department. For more information visit the CDC.



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Contributors

Suzanne Grubbs, MPH
386-274-0695
Suzanne.Grubbs@flhealth.gov

Maria D. Bermudez-Perez, MS
386-274-0635
Maria.BermudezPerez@flhealth.gov

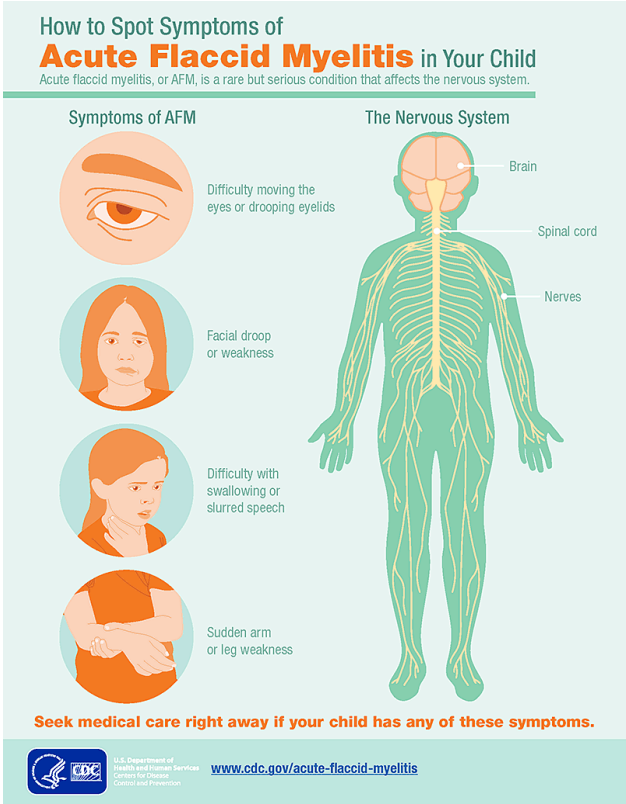
Emily Gibb, BA
386-274-0633
Emily.Gibb@flhealth.gov

HIV/AIDS
Paula Burns, MSW
386-274-0585
Paula.Burns@flhealth.gov

STDs
Lorranine Pedro
386-274-0663
Lorranine.Pedro@flhealth.gov

TB
Shakeara Powell, BSN
386-274-0652
Shakeara.Powell@flhealth.gov

To report a disease or outbreak: Phone: 386-274-0651, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Fax: 386-274-0641, After hours: 386-316-5030



Acute Flaccid Myelitis

Acute Flaccid Myelitis or AFM is a rare but serious condition that affects the nervous system. Symptoms of AFM may include sudden onset of arm or leg weakness and loss of muscle tone and reflexes, facial droop, difficulty moving eyes, drooping eyelids, difficulty with swallowing or slurred speech. The most severe symptom of AFM is respiratory failure that can happen when the muscles involved with breathing become weak. The causes or trigger for AFM is unknown. However, certain viruses are known to be associated with AFM including poliovirus, enterovirus A71 (EV-A71), and West Nile Virus. AFM can be difficult to diagnose due to shared symptoms with other neurologic diseases.

Every two years, there has been an increase in these cases. Most cases have occurred in children.

No specific treatment for this condition is available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with national experts, healthcare providers, and departments of health to understand better this condition.

The surveillance for this condition started in 2014 due to the large number of cases reported. Every two years, there has been an increase in these cases. Most cases have occurred in children. Since August 2018, there has been an increase in reported cases of AFM in the country. This year the Florida Department of Health (DOH) received reports of three cases with clinically suspected AFM.

Clinicians suspecting this condition should report the case to their county health department (CHD) as soon as possible. Clinicians should collect specimens from cases under investigation for AFM preferably on the day of onset of limb weakness and coordinate with the CHD to submit specimens to the CDC for testing.

For more information on AFM, visit the CDC website or contact the FLDOH in Volusia County at 386-274-0651.

Mosquitos in the genius Culex transmit West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a flavivirus that is spread to humans from the bite of a *Culex* mosquito. The mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Once the mosquito is infected, it can spread the illness to humans or other animals such as horses. WNV does not spread person to person or from other animals besides the *Culex* mosquito. Eighty percent of people who are infected with WNV do not show symptoms. The 20 percent that do show symptoms might experience a fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. These symptoms will appear between two days to 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Most cases occur during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and continues through fall.

There are many ways to prevent the spread of WNV. The Volusia County Mosquito Control program communicates with the DOH-Volusia to determine where these mosquitos could be living and which parts of the community are at risk. Mosquito Control uses sentinel chickens and mosquito traps to detect where the virus is circulating. They also conduct aerial spraying in areas where WNV has been located. Important steps to prevent being bitten by these mosquitos include removing standing water from buckets, toys, or bird baths because these are the places where mosquitos lay their eggs. To control adult mosquitos, you can buy an EPA-registered adulticide and follow the instructions to kill adult mosquitos inside or outside your home. *Culex* mosquitos like to live in dark humid areas, like under patio furniture or in garages.

Volusia County Disease Activity*	3rd Quarter 2018	3rd Quarter 2017	YTD 2018	Full Year 2017
Vaccine Preventable				
Mumps	1	0	3	0
Pertussis	1	3	3	6
Varicella	19	1	39	6
CNS Diseases and Bacteremias				
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)	1	0	2	0
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive)‡	0	0	0	0
Meningitis (bacterial, cryptococcal, mycotic)	0	0	0	1
Meningococcal disease	0	0	1	0
Staphylococcus aureus (GISA/VISA)	0	0	0	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae (invasive disease)‡	0	0	1	1
Enteric Infections				
Campylobacteriosis	15	23	62	79
Cryptosporidiosis	4	4	12	12
Cyclosporiasis	1	6	1	7
Escherichia coli, shiga-toxin producing (STEC)+	5	1	14	4
Giardiasis	6	2	18	16
Listeriosis	1	1	2	1
Salmonellosis	82	30	187	127
Shigellosis	20	5	63	14
Typhoid Fever	1	0	2	0
Viral Hepatitis				
Hepatitis A	1	0	4	3
Hepatitis B, acute	10	3	35	24
Hepatitis B, chronic	67	15	198	77
Hepatitis C, acute	4	3	13	9
Hepatitis C, chronic	230	212	787	884
Hepatitis C, Perinatal	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis +HBsAg in pregnant women	2	0	7	3
Vector Borne, Zoonoses				
Arboviral disease	1	0	1	0
Babesiosis	0	0	1	2
Brucellosis	0	0	1	0
Chikungunya	0	0	0	0
Dengue Fever	0	0	0	0
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	1	0	1	0
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis	2	0	5	1
Lyme disease	2	1	4	4
Malaria	0	1	1	1
Monkey bite	0	0	0	0
Q Fever, acute	0	0	0	0
Rabies, animal	0	0	2	0
Rabies (possible exposure)	25	17	131	135
Rocky Mountain spotted fever/Spotted Fever Ricikettsiosis	1	0	3	1
West Nile virus, neuroinvasive	0	0	0	1
Zika virus disease	0	1	1	1
HIV/AIDS†				
HIV	29	26	85	99
AIDS	12	11	37	46
STDs†				
Chlamydia	480	521	1531	2128
Gonorrhea	169	230	553	884
Syphilis				
Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	6	6	24	26
Latent (early and late)	20	18	58	80
Congenital	0	0	0	0
Others				
Carbon monoxide poisoning	1	5	12	25
Hansen's Disease (leprosy)	0	0	0	5
Lead poisoning	6	19	31	33
Legionellosis	3	6	10	12
Mercury Poisoning	1	1	0	0
Saxitoxin Poisoning (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning)	0	0	1	0
Scombroid Poisoning	0	2	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	1	3	2
Vibriosis	6	4	12	7

*Includes reported confirmed/probable cases. Data is provisional and subject to change.
† Numbers are for Volusia/ County only ‡ Only reportable for young children

Influenza Season Update: 2018-2019

According to the CDC, influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness. Older people, pregnant woman, young children, and people with certain health conditions are at high risk of serious flu complications.

In the United States, influenza season begins in the fall and winter with the peak of activity occurring between December and February. As of November 2018, influenza activity in the United States remains slightly elevated. In Florida the majority of counties have reported mild or no influenza activity for the most current reporting period. Influenza A 2009 (H1N1) has been the most commonly identified virus circulating this season. Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported. Outbreaks have occurred this season mostly impacting facilities that serve high risk populations.

The CDC recommends for everyone six months of age and older receive an influenza vaccine each year.

Volusia County has been relatively mild for the duration of the influenza season. The percentage of persons seen at emergency department with influenza like illness (ILI) is stable at three percent of total patients seen.

The CDC recommends for everyone six months of age and older receive an influenza vaccine each year. That is the best way to prevent this illness. In addition, the DOH recommends everyday precautions to prevent the spread of influenza such as frequent hand washing, not touching your eyes, nose and mouth, avoiding contact with people with symptoms, and staying home until fever-free for at least 24 hours.

For more information, visit the CDC or contact the FDOH in Volusia County at (386)-274-0651.