

# Communicable Diseases

April-May 2010

Volume 3, Issue 4

## Monthly Newsletter

For Joplin City and Jasper County

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### BRIEFS

#### Hepatitis Awareness Month

May 2010 marks the 15th anniversary of Hepatitis Awareness Month in the United States.

World Hepatitis Day - May 19.  
Globally, viral hepatitis:  
Causes most (78%) of primary liver cancer,  
Is the third leading cause of cancer deaths in the world.

Prevention of hepatitis B and hepatitis C virus transmission and treatment for early disease can prevent primary liver cancer.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

## Community Efforts To Fight West Nile Virus

Mosquito season has begun in Joplin due to the recent rains and warm weather which, as a result increases the risk for West Nile Virus. By taking some simple precautions, you can protect yourself from West Nile virus infection (WNV).



WNV is carried by birds, and can be transmitted when a mosquito bites an infected bird and then bites a person, animal or another bird. Most people who are infected will not even get sick. However, the illness can range from mild to severe. Even though your chance of becoming sick is very low, it is still important to protect yourself and community from mosquitoes.

A mosquito can breed in as little as one teaspoonful of water and takes about 10 days to hatch into an adult.

The Joplin Health Department operates a mosquito control program that utilizes occasional fogging and use of larvicide to control and prevent mosquitoes. Fogging routes are posted at the health department website <http://www.joplinhealthdepartment.org/>.

In order for these efforts to be effective, citizen involvement is encouraged. An individual resident can do more to control mosquitoes around their home than all other methods combined. This can be done by eliminating mosquito breeding habitats through;

- ◆ Getting rid of standing water in the yard
- ◆ Disposing of old tires, cans or any unused item that collects water.
- ◆ Making sure roof gutters are draining

- ◆ Changing water in birdbaths, wading pools and pet dishes weekly,
- ◆ Ensuring your property is well graded and draining to prevent standing water,
- ◆ Disposing of piles of brush or leaves,
- ◆ Storing items such as boats, upside down or cover to prevent standing water,
- ◆ Treating standing water that cannot be drained with a larvicide, follow all label directions. These mosquito larvicides are available at local hardware stores.
- ◆ Picking up trash in your yard. Clean up leaves and brush piles. Keep your grass mowed short. Trim trees to allow more sunlight into your yard.

Similarly, there are steps you can take to protect yourself against mosquito bites. They include:

- ◆ Staying indoors at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- ◆ Wearing long sleeved shirts, socks and long pants when you must be outdoors.
- ◆ Using an approved insect repellent, and follow the instructions on the product label.
- ◆ Talking to your physician or health care provider before applying insect repellants to young children.
- ◆ Making sure your window screens fit tightly and are free from holes.

Remember, the best way to keep from getting West Nile Virus is to get rid of mosquito breeding grounds and avoid getting bitten.

For more information, contact :

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**Environmental/Epidemiology Coordinator**  
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## STAPH INFECTIONS: MRSA

### What is MRSA?

MRSA is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a potentially dangerous type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics and may cause skin and other infections. As with all regular staph infections, recognizing the signs and receiving treatment for MRSA skin infections in the early stages reduces the chances of the infection becoming severe. MRSA is spread by:

- > Having direct contact with another person's infection
- > Sharing personal items, such as towels or razors, that have touched infected skin
- > Touching surfaces or items, such as used bandages, contaminated with MRSA

### What are the signs and symptoms?

Most staph skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that may be red, swollen, painful, warm to the touch, full of pus or other drainage and accompanied by a fever.

### What if I suspect an MRSA skin infection?

Cover the area with a bandage and contact your healthcare professional. It is especially important to contact your healthcare provider if signs and symptoms of MRSA skin infection are accompanied by fever.

### How are MRSA skin infections treated?

Treatment for MRSA skin infections may include having a healthcare professional drain the infection and, in some cases, prescribe an antibiotic. Do not attempt to drain the infection yourself – doing so could worsen or spread it to others. If you are given an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses (even if the infection is getting better), unless your healthcare professional tells you to stop taking it.

### How can I protect my family from MRSA skin infections?

- > Know the signs of MRSA skin infections and get treated early,
- > Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered,
- > Encourage good hygiene such as cleaning hands regularly ,
- > Discourage sharing of personal items such as towels and razors.

Other drug-resistant staph bacteria includes Vancomycin Resistant Staph aureus (VRSA) and Vancomycin Intermediate Staph aureus (VISA). This means that the staph infection cannot be successfully treated with vancomycin.

Source: CDC

Pictures: CDC

## Local Community Efforts to Reduce Staph-Related Infections

Resistant Organism Coalition (ROC Inc.) is a coalition of local community healthcare professionals with a mission of reducing the problem of multi-drug resistant organisms. This coalition group was formed in 2005 to address the pressing and growing public health concern in our communities. In order to achieve this goal, ROC creates awareness in the local communities by providing trainings, supporting preventive programs in institutions, participating in health fairs, through PSAs etc.

ROC membership includes; Freeman Health Systems, St. Johns Regional Hospital, McCune Brooks Regional Hospital, Joplin City Health Department, Jasper County Health Department , Newton County Health Department and Access Family Care. The group holds monthly meetings every 4th Wednesday of the month at Panera Bread meeting room (32nd St) at 8:30am. The group invites other healthcare professionals to join in this community effort.

For more information about ROC Inc, write to [roc.mrsa@gmail.com](mailto:roc.mrsa@gmail.com)

## Communicable Diseases Monthly Report—April 2010

Cumulative Case from January Through the End of April in Joplin and Jasper County (2009 & 2010)

Table 1

(Includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases)

CONDITION / YEAR BY LPHA	JOPLIN		JASPER	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
ANIMAL BITES	65	28	35	26
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	2	4	6	66
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	0	1	0	0
E. COLI SHIGA TOXIN	0	1	2	0
GIARDIASIS	0	0	2	3
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE	0	0	1	0
HEPATITIS B PREGNANCY	2	0	1	0
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	5	2	1	3
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	1	2	3	0
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	1	0	0	0
CHRONIC HEPATITIS C	21	11	23	15
MYCOBACTERIUM OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS	1	1	3	0
PERTUSSIS	0	1	10	2
SALMONELLOSIS	6	0	1	3
SHIGELLOSIS	0	3	0	0
TB INFECTION	7	2	13	4
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	0	0	8	1

Source: Crystal Reports, MDHSS

### January Through April

(See data in table 1)

Animal bites, chronic Hepatitis C, TB infection, chicken pox and pertussis in both Jasper County and Joplin City show a decline in 2010 compared to 2009 through the end of April.

On the other hand, *Campylobacter* illnesses continued to increase in Joplin City and more significantly in Jasper County in April.

## Sexually Transmitted Diseases Updates

Table 2 shows local STD data in 2010 for the months of January, February and March in selected counties and St. Louis City.

These jurisdictions had rates higher than Jasper County. Also included is the state rate.

NB: The Jasper County rate also includes Joplin City.

According to the data, the state rate of 137.7 is lower than Jasper County (156.5).

Source: Missouri DHSS & Joplin/Jasper County STD Surveillance, 2010

Table 2

COUNTY / CITY	2009 Population Estimate	2010 -Jan, Feb & March (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea & Syphilis)	Rate @100,000
ST LOUIS CITY	356587	1491	418.1
JACKSON	705708	1952	276.6
PEMISCOT	18193	46	252.8
PULASKI	46457	117	251.8
BOONE	156377	281	179.7
ST LOUIS	992408	1691	170.4
SCOTT	40855	64	156.7
JASPER	118179	185	156.5
<b>MISSOURI (STATE RATE)</b>	<b>5,987,580</b>	<b>8242</b>	<b>137.7</b>

Source: US Census, Missouri DHSS and Joplin City/Jasper County STD Surveillance

## Health Department Administrators

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## UPCOMING TRAININGS AND EVENTS

### FREE WEBINAR FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS ON RECOGNIZING AND TREATING TICK-BORNE DISEASES – May 11

The DHSS Office of Veterinary Public Health is co-sponsoring a free continuing medical education (CME) webinar on tick-borne diseases (TBD) on Tuesday, May 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (CDT). The live webcast: [Recognizing and Treating Tick-borne Diseases: A CME Webinar for MDs and RNs](#) will address both Missouri's environment for TBDs and a nationwide perspective. The recorded webinar and CMEs will be available for one year through the Clinical Directors Network website at [www.cdnetwork.org](http://www.cdnetwork.org). While the primary audiences are MDs and RNs, this webinar should be valuable to many public health professionals. To register open the flyer above and find the registration link. For more information contact [Alyce.Turner@dhss.mo.gov](mailto:Alyce.Turner@dhss.mo.gov) or call 573-526-4780.

### HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH --- MAY 2010

May 2010 marks the 15th anniversary of Hepatitis Awareness Month in the U.S.

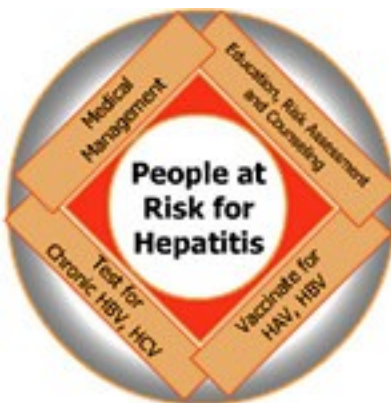
### WORLD HEPATITIS DAY - MAY 19

## May is Hepatitis Awareness Month

May is the 15th anniversary of National Hepatitis Awareness Month in the United States and, on May 19<sup>th</sup> is the World Hepatitis Day.

These observances are intended to increase awareness about the large but often under-recognized burden of disease and premature death associated with viral hepatitis. An estimated 4.5 million Americans have chronic Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, which together account for the major cause of chronic liver disease and liver cancer.

If you think you might be at risk for viral hepatitis, talk to your health professional or health department about vaccination and testing.



Source: CDC

**NOTHING GREAT WAS EVER ACHIEVED WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM -- RALPH WALDO EMERSON**