

# Communicable Diseases

February – March 2010

Volume 3, Issue 2

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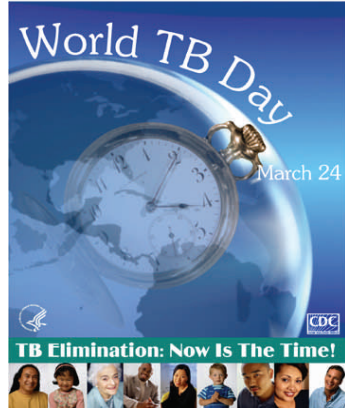
## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Meningitis outbreak claims two lives in a school (p.3)**
- ◆ **Flu activity in Jasper County steadily increasing since February (p.1)**
- ◆ **World TB Day on March 24, 2010 (p.1)**

## Monthly Newsletter

For Joplin City and Jasper County

## World TB Day 2010: TB Elimination: Together We Can!



World TB Day is March 24. The annual event commemorates the date when Dr. R. Koch announced his discovery of the bacteria that cause tuberculosis, (TB).

World TB Day provides an opportunity to communicate TB-related problems and solutions as well as support worldwide control efforts. In the U.S, the theme for World TB Day

2010 is “TB elimination: Together We Can!”

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that usually attacks the lungs. TB bacteria can also attack other parts of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain. If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal.

TB is spread through the air from one person to another when a person with active TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings.

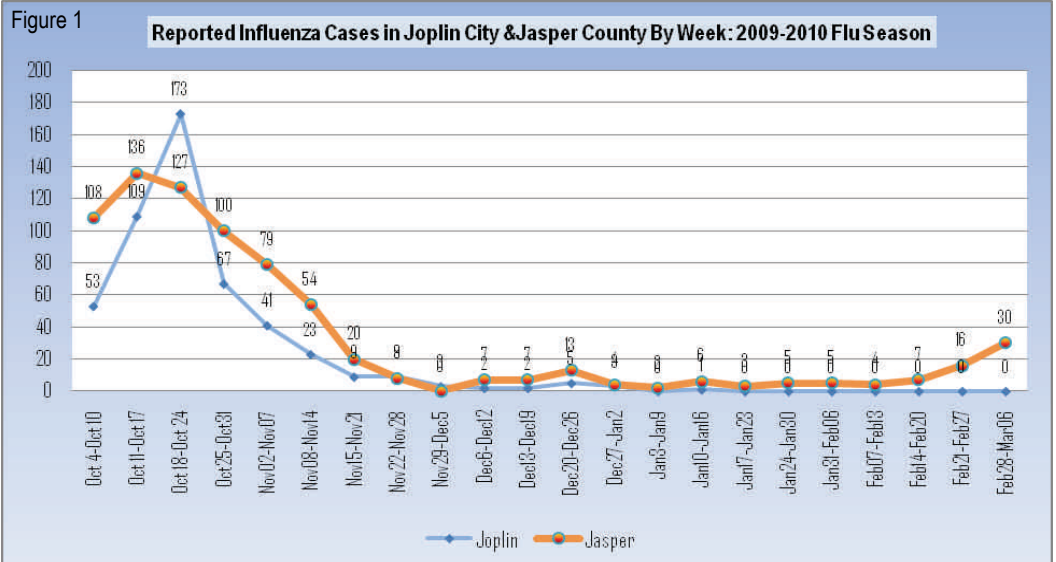
Contact your healthcare provider or health department for more information about TB. **(World TB Day posters on page 4)**

Source: CDC

## Cumulative Flu Data For Joplin and Jasper County

Although flu cases in Joplin City remained relatively low as of the week ending March 06, 2010, there was a steady increase in Jasper County. See figure 1 below.

The health departments are closely and regularly monitoring the flu trends and encouraging individuals to continue taking preventive measures such as getting vaccinated, washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes and staying home if sick etc. For more flu information, visit [www.Jascoflu.com](http://www.Jascoflu.com)



Source: DHSS; Joplin/Jasper County Health Departments Flu Surveillance

## Meningitis: Overview



Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. It is usually viral or bacterial.

Bacterial meningitis can be severe and may cause brain damage, hearing loss, or learning disabilities.

### Signs and symptoms of meningitis

High fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking into bright lights, confusion, and sleepiness. Some patients may have seizures.

### Diagnosis of bacterial meningitis

This is usually made by growing bacteria from a sample of spinal fluid. Identification of the bacteria responsible is important for selection of correct antibiotics.

### Treatment

Bacterial meningitis can be treated with several effective antibiotics. It is important, however, that treatment be started early in the course of the disease. Appropriate antibiotic treatment can reduce the risk of dying from meningitis.

### Spread

The bacteria are mainly spread by direct contact, including respiratory droplets from nose and throat of infected people.

People in the same household or daycare center or anyone with direct contact with a patient's oral secretions is considered at increased risk of getting the infection and should receive antibiotics to prevent them from getting the disease.

### Vaccination

Since the occurrence of meningococcal disease increases during adolescence, health-care providers should vaccinate previously unvaccinated pre-teens and those 11-18 years at the earliest possible healthcare visit.

College freshmen living in dormitories are at increased risk for meningococcal disease and should be vaccinated with meningococcal conjugate vaccine before college entry if they have not previously been vaccinated.

Routine vaccination also is recommended for certain persons who have increased risk for meningococcal disease.

For more information on meningococcal disease, contact your healthcare provider or the local health department.

### Local Meningococcal Disease Updates

There was no meningococcal disease reported in Joplin and Jasper County in 2009 and 2010 to-date.

There were two cases reported in 2008. One of those cases was fatal. These cases were reported in February and March.

*(Read about meningitis outbreak on p. 3)*

Source: CDC, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

### Reporting Rules

#### Meningococcal Disease

is reportable disease in Missouri.

It is reportable within

one day of knowledge

or suspicion to your

health department or to

Missouri Department of

Health and Senior

Services.

For more information,

contact the local health

department or visit:

<http://www.dhss.mo.gov/>

[CommunicableDisease/](#)

[reportablediseaselist1.pdf](#)

## Communicable Disease Monthly Report—February 2010

Table 1 **Cumulative Case from January Through the End of February, by Jurisdictions (2009 & 2010)**  
(Includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases)

CONDITION / YEAR BY LPHA	JOPLIN		JASPER	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
ANIMAL BITES	26	19	12	18
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	2	2	3	0
E. COLI SHIGA TOXIN	0	0	1	0
GIARDIASIS	0	0	1	0
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE	0	0	1	0
HEPATITIS A ACUTE	0	0	0	1
HEPATITIS B PREGNANCY	1	0	1	0
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	3	1	1	0
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	1	0	0	0
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC INFECTION	8	4	10	6
MOTT	1	0	2	0
PERTUSSIS	0	1	0	0
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER	0	1	0	0
SALMONELLOSIS	3	0	0	0
SHIGELLOSIS	0	2	0	0
TB INFECTION	3	0	7	0
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	0	0	3	1

Source: Crystal Reports, MDHSS & Analyzed by Joplin City/Jasper County Health Departments

### January Through February

Most of the illnesses in February remained the same compared with January in 2010 with an exception of animal bite in Joplin that spiked from three cases in January to 19 by the end of February. Additional illnesses cases reported in February 2010 included; Campylobacteriosis (Joplin), Acute Hepatitis B (Joplin), Chronic Hepatitis C (Joplin & Jasper County), and Pertussis (Joplin) as shown in table 1.

## Meningitis Outbreak Closes School After 2 Die in Oklahoma

Friday, March 12, 2010

OOLOGAH, Okla. — State and Rogers County health officials say two Oologah –Talala elementary school students have died of a disease related to meningitis.

A 7-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl died Wednesday and Thursday of meningococcal disease. Health officials say four other children in the area have become ill with symptoms and are hospitalized.

Antibiotics are being offered at the school to students, staff and those who have had close contact with those affected

More on the story, read:

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/site/printerfriendlystory.aspx?articleid=20100314\\_1\\_0\\_OOLOGA16933](http://www.tulsaworld.com/site/printerfriendlystory.aspx?articleid=20100314_1_0_OOLOGA16933)

## Health Department Administrators

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## UPCOMING TRAININGS AND EVENTS

**Principles of Epidemiology Course:** [April 21 & 22](#), [July 21 & 22](#), or [October 20 & 21, 2010](#). To register, contact [Rose.Kowieski@dhss.mo.gov](mailto:Rose.Kowieski@dhss.mo.gov)

### Hepatitis A, B, C, and D, HIV, Syphilis, and Perinatal Prevention Early Identification and Interventions For A Better Outcome Workshops

The Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program team within the Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis of the Missouri DHSS, will be conducting the above indicated free workshops. For questions, please contact Libby Landrum or Leslie Rumans at 573-751-6475, or by e-mail at [Libby.Landrum@dhss.mo.gov](mailto:Libby.Landrum@dhss.mo.gov) or [Leslie.Rumans@dhss.mo.gov](mailto:Leslie.Rumans@dhss.mo.gov). See attached [registration](#).

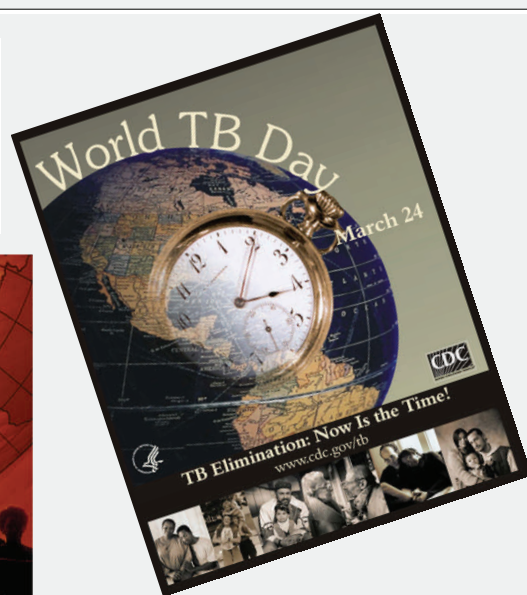
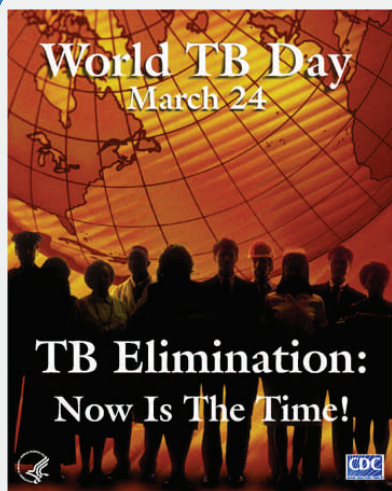
### Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Inventory Management Training – March 24

Participants will learn how to set up a virtual warehouse, order supplies, and track items using an Excel spreadsheet. To register for this training, please go to the following URL: [www.dhss.mo.gov/MOHSaic\\_Training.html](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/MOHSaic_Training.html). For your convenience, a total of four sessions will be offered on March 24. The location is Ralls County Health Department, 405 West 1st Street, New London, MO 63459.

### Recruiting Summer Interns

The University of Missouri-Columbia Masters in Public Health (MPH) Program is recruiting summer internship placements for 45 MPH students. If there is a project you would like an intern to work on, please contact Lynelle Phillips at [phillipslm@missouri.edu](mailto:phillipslm@missouri.edu) or call 573-884-8976. Attached is the [internship description form](#) which can be faxed to her attention at 573-884-4132.

## World TB Day Posters



Source: CDC

*Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do. - Goethe*