



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

For Joplin City, Barton, Dade, Jasper, McDonald, Newton and Vernon Counties

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April is STD Awareness Month

April is STD Awareness Month, an annual observance to raise awareness about the impact of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) on the health of Americans and the importance of individuals discussing sexual health with their healthcare providers and, if sexually active, their partners.



STDs are a major public health issue:

- CDC estimates that there are about 19 million new cases of STDs each year in the U.S, almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24.
- STDs have an economic impact: direct medical costs associated with STDs in the United States are estimated at \$15.9 billion annually.

Vaccines offer protection against two common sexually transmitted viral infections: hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus (HPV). CDC recommends their use for people at risk. While serious health threats from STDs cross racial and ethnic lines, disparities persist at too high a level. Higher rates of the most commonly reported STDs persist among African-Americans and Hispanics when compared to whites. Most STDs have been associated with increased risk of HIV transmission. Many STDs do not have any symptoms, so many of those who are infected don't know it. The only way to know for sure is to get tested.

Source: CDC

For local data on STDs, go to page 2.

Resistant Organism Coalition (ROC Inc.): MRSA Preventive Initiatives in our Community

Resistant Organism Coalition (ROC Inc) is a community coalition group established in 2005 to bring together community health providers, with the mission of reducing the incidence of multi-drug resistant organisms by increasing awareness and providing education about resistant organisms in the community. The group achieves this goal through health fairs, PSAs and trainings. The group recognizes the growing problem related to antibiotic resistance in our communities and therefore, seeks to help others recognize and prevent related infections. One such growing concern is the incidence of Methicillin Resistance Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). Not only is MRSA confined in healthcare setting but has emerged as a community associated infection. ROC Inc., has members from St. John's Regional Hospital, Freeman Hospital, Joplin City Health Department, Jasper and Newton County Health Department, Access Family Care, and McCune Brooks Regional Hospital. The coalition meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 8:30am at Panera Bread on 32nd Street in Joplin. ROC Inc., invites you to join in the initiative. For more information, contact Teri Koch or Donna Stokes at 625-2169.

(See MRSA Information in page 3)

Special Point of Interest



Communicable Diseases Report

Table 1

Cumulative Cases From January Through End of March 2009, By Local Jurisdiction (2008 & 2009) (Includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases)														
	JOPLIN		JASPER		BARTON		DADE		MCDONALD		VERNON		NEWTON	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
ANIMAL BITES	27	33	21	25	1	0	1	0	1	5	1	0	5	5
BRUCELLOSIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	1	2	4	5	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	2	0
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	2
E. COLI SHIGA TOXIN	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
GIARDIASIS	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HEPATITIS A ACUTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
HEPATITIS B PREGNANCY	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC IN	29	14	12	18	1	1	0	2	14	5	3	8	17	10
LEGIONELLOSIS	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MUMPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
PERTUSSIS	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
RABIES POST EXPO PROPHY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SALMONELLOSIS	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	1
TOXIC SHOCK (STAPH) SY	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOXIC SHOCK (STREP) SY	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	0	0	3	7	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	3
Total Cases Per Year To-Date	67	64	51	65	6	4	5	4	19	18	14	10	33	38
Rate @10,000 (2000 population)	14.7	14.1	8.6	11.0	4.8	3.2	6.3	5.1	8.8	8.3	6.8	4.9	6.9	8.0

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Crystal Reports and U.S Bureau Census Data

Data period : January through end of March 2009

Eighteen out of the 22 conditions reported in the seven jurisdictions in 2009 were higher than the previous year, 2008. Joplin City reported most of these conditions (7) with higher occurrence in 2009 followed by Jasper County (6). Jasper and Newton Counties reported more cases in total, in 2009 than in 2008 while the rest had lower cases in 2009 than in 2008.

However, based on the reported cases in 2009, relative to the population of each jurisdictions, Joplin City had a highest rate per 10,000 population (14.1) in 2009, although that rate was lower than reported in 2008. Other counties that had higher rates in 2009 compared to 2008 were Jasper (11) and Newton (8). Barton County (3.2) had the lowest rate of reported cases in 2009.

Animal bites were higher in 2009 than in 2008 in Joplin City, Jasper and McDonald Counties.

Analysis: Joseph T. Njenga

Sexually Transmitted Diseases in our Community: January and February 2009

Chlamydia was the highest incidence STD in the region compared to Gonorrhea and Syphilis. More females than males in Joplin City had STDs. High incidence was reported among young people ages **20 to 24** years, followed by ages **15 to 19** years age group.

Reportable Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Year-To-Date, by County in 2009 (January through February, 2009)								
	Joplin	Jasper	Newton	McDonald	Dade	Barton	Vernon	Total
Chlamydia	49	72	18	6	1	2	5	153
Gonorrhea	8	7	3	0	1	0	0	19
Syphilis	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	9
Total	58	80	28	6	2	2	5	

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Tuberculosis



World TB Day was March 24, 2009. This is an annual event in commemoration of the discovery of *M. tuberculosis*, the bacteria that cause TB by Dr. Robert Koch in 1882.

The theme for the World TB Day in the United States was **“Partnerships for TB Elimination.”**

According to CDC surveillance data on Tuberculosis in the U.S. in 2008, Tuberculosis cases were on the decline, although health disparities continue to exist. The most affected groups are the racial and ethnic minorities, foreign-born individuals and those living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). A total of 12,898 TB cases were reported in the United States in 2008, down from 13,288 cases in 2007. The 2008 national TB case rate — 4.2 cases per 100,000 persons — was the lowest since reporting began in 1953.

Multi drug-resistant TB poses a serious threat to the ability to treat and control TB. TB is a serious threat both in the United States and abroad. Globally, approximately one-third of the world’s population is infected with the bacteria that cause TB. The ability of the disease to develop resistance to treatments and travel easily across borders makes worldwide TB control efforts critical. CDC is working with partners around the world to ensure that adequate resources and tools are in place to prevent the further development and spread of drug resistance. These efforts include;

- Strengthening national TB programs
- Strengthening national TB Surveillance
- Building the capacity of health care professionals to diagnose and treat TB, including drug-resistant TB
- Developing global policy recommendations
- Improving standards
- Designing new treatment regimens
- Improving tests to diagnose the disease.

NB.

There were no TB cases in Joplin, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Barton, Dade and Vernon Counties in 2008. Two cases reported in Joplin City in 2007.

TB testing can be done at your local health department or healthcare provider. For more information contact your local health department.

Source: MDHSS and CDC

MRSA: A Growing Problem in Communities

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. You can get MRSA through direct contact with an infected person or by sharing personal items, such as towels or razors that have touched infected skin.

The problem of MRSA remains high in U.S. healthcare setting but community associated MRSA are rapidly emerging in many areas.

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
- Accompanied a fever



If you or someone in your family experiences these signs and symptoms, cover the area with a bandage and contact your healthcare professional. It is especially important to contact your healthcare professional if signs and symptoms of an MRSA skin infection are accompanied by a fever. MRSA is a serious infection that can become life-threatening if left untreated.

Treatment of MRSA skin infections

Have 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.

Protection against MRSA skin infections

- Know the signs of MRSA and get it treated early
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered
- Encourage good hygiene e.g. cleaning hands regularly
- Do not share personal items such as towels and razors

For more information, visit CDC and Missouri DHSS website. Resistant Organism Coalition (ROC Inc.) can also provide valuable information on MRSA. Contact: Teri Koch or Donna Stokes at 625-2169 for more information.

Source: MDHSS and CDC

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Questions/Comments, please contact:

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Communicable Diseases Surveillance

If your institution would like to participate in the Local Communicable Disease surveillance, please contact your local health department for more information.

A surveillance site can be:

- Public/Private school
- College
- Large employer
- Childcare facility
- Physician clinic
- Community clinic

Surveillance is the ongoing systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of health related data with the goal of detecting health related issues within our community, and using that information to control and prevent disease as well as promote health.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Principles of Epidemiology Course— April 22-23, July 29-30 & October 21-22, 2009: Contact Rose.Kowieski.dhss.mo.gov or call 573-751-6113 for more information about registration.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK - April 6-12: Several tools to promote awareness of the importance of public health to partners, communities, and policy makers can be accessed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/LPHA/Resources.html> under the National Public Health Week 2009 Materials heading.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Healthy Kids Day: April 18, 2009 at the Fair Acres Family Y in Carthage, MO.

Influenza Season 2008-2009 at the end of March 2009

Confirmed Influenza cases were significantly high in Joplin city area as indicated by the figure below. There were no cases reported in Newton county.

Most of these confirmed cases were Type A. In Joplin City, 653 out of the 745 cases were Type A, 72 cases were type B and 20 were untyped.

Figure 1

