

EPI—NOTES



Hillsborough County Health Department

Disease Surveillance Newsletter

May 7, 2008



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HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

Recommendations for Reduction of Disease

Tania Harper, MPH

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month. Each year during this month the Hillsborough County Health Department works to bring additional recognition to this often overlooked group of viruses. Public health efforts have greatly reduced the incidence of this disease in the United States, however a great deal still remains to be done before they can be eliminated completely. In 2006 alone, 19,905 cases of chronic hepatitis C were reported in Florida.

The following are the CDC recommendations for reduction of this disease.

Hepatitis A is transmitted from person-to person through the fecal-oral route as well as through fecally contaminated food or water. Symptoms consist of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, dark urine, jaundice, and loss of appetite. Those at highest risk for contracting this virus include travelers to [endemic countries](#), children living in high-risk states, men who have sex with men, household and sexual contacts of infected persons, and drug-users. Vaccination is recommended for anyone in these high-risk groups as well as all children 12 months and older and persons diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B or C.

Hepatitis B is transmitted through blood exposure, unprotected sexual contact, and from mother to child at birth. Hepatitis B can cause liver cirrhosis and liver cancer and many of the infected don't show symptoms. Those considered at high risk include travelers to endemic regions, household and sexual contacts of hepatitis B carriers, developmentally disabled patients in assisted living facilities, healthcare workers, hemodialysis patients, drug users, and those with multiple sexual partners. Testing is recommended for:

- All persons born in endemic regions which include Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Islands regardless of vaccination status
- All pregnant women during their initial prenatal screening and repeated in late pregnancy for high risk (multiple sexual partners, drug users, STD positive) women
- Hemodialysis patients
- Household and sexual contacts of hepatitis B carriers
- Non-responders to the hepatitis B vaccination series

Vaccination is recommended for all high risk persons as well as persons diagnosed with hepatitis C and all infants at birth. The vaccination schedule should be strictly adhered to for [infants born to HBsAg-positive](#)

To report a disease phone or fax:

(813) 307-8015, ext. 4758

Hepatitis C is the most prevalent of the hepatitis viruses in the U.S. It is transmitted primarily through blood exposure such as drug use or tattooing and rarely through unprotected sex or from mother to child during birth. It can cause liver cirrhosis and liver cancer and, like hepatitis B, patients often have no symptoms. Testing is recommended for:

- Intravenous drugs users
- Blood transfusion or organ transplant recipients prior to July 1992
- Clotting factor concentrate recipients prior to 1987
- Hemodialysis patients
- Children born to hepatitis C positive mothers
- Healthcare workers in contact with blood or needles
- Incarcerated persons

Unlike hepatitis A and B there is NO vaccine for hepatitis C.

As part of our health department's mission to promote and protect the public's health, hepatitis testing, vaccination, and prevention education is offered year-round to Hillsborough County residents, along with many other services. Hillsborough County Health Department Main Health Center 1105 E. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33602 (ph. 813-307-8000).

The Tampa Bay Hepatitis & Liver Disease Support Group- Hillsborough Chapter meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month 7-9 pm at University Community Hospital- Carrollwood 7171 N. Dale Mabry Hwy. Tampa, FL 33614 (ph. 813-625-1819) Facilitator: Gus Garcia.

Affordable hepatitis treatment for the uninsured is provided by Chance Center Education & Resources 5702 Gulfport Blvd. Gulfport, FL 33707 (ph. 727-384-1030) Director: Debbie Barnes – On May 8, 2008 the Chance Center will be providing Free Viral Load and Genotype testing – by appointment only.

References

Hepatitis A education fact sheet <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/a/fact.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A comprehensive immunization strategy to eliminate transmission of hepatitis B virus infection in the United States: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP);

Part 1: Immunization of Infants, Children, and Adolescents. MMWR 2005;5

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5416.pdf>

Florida Department of Health Bureau of Immunizations Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program

http://www.immunizeflorida.org/hep_b/index.htm

Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection and HCV-Related Chronic Disease. MMWR 1998;47(No. RR-19) <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/plan/strategy.pdf>

Chance Center www.chancecenter.org

DISEASE	2005 Yr end	2006 Yr end	2007 Yr end	3YR AVG (2005-2007)	Jan-Apr 07	Jan-Apr 08
AIDS	346	319	253	306.0	60	116
ANIMAL BITE, PROPHY REC.	30	38	20	29.3	7	7
ANTHRAX	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
BOTULISM	0	1	0	0.3	0	0
BRUCELLOSIS	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CALIFORNIA SEROGROUP, NEUROINVASIVE	NR	1	1	0.7	0	0
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	45	45	57	49.0	23	18
CHLAMYDIA	3,208	3,800	5206	4,071.3	321	NA
CIGUATERA	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE	0	1	0	0.3	0	0
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	32	30	47	36.3	7	3
CYCLOSPORIASIS	40	0	2	14.0	0	0
DENGUE	3	0	2	1.7	0	2
DIPHThERIA	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
EHRlichIOSIS, HUMAN GRANULOCYtic	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
EHRlichIOSIS, HUMAN MONOCYtic	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
ENCEPHALITIS, CALIFORNIA/LACROSSE	0	1	0	0.3	0	0
ENCEPHALITIS, HERPES	1	0	0	0.3	0	0
ENCEPHALITIS, NON-ARBOVIRAL	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
ENCEPHALITIS, OTHER	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
ENCEPHALITIS, EEE	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
ENCEPHALITIS, SLE	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
ENCEPHALITIS, WN	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
ESCHERICHIA COLI (E. COLI) O157:H7	6	4	4	4.7	0	0
E. COLI SHIGA TOXIN + NOT SEROGROUP	0	2	2	1.3	1	0
E. COLI SHIGA TOXIN + NON-O157	0	1	1	0.7	0	0
E. COLI, OTHER	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
FOOD AND WATERBORNE CASES	114	75	64	84.3	38	12
FOOD AND WATERBORNE OUTBREAKS	9	22	17	16.0	7	5
GIARDIASIS	64	81	87	77.3	21	13
GONORRHEA	1,261	1,685	2067	1,671.0	146	NA
H. INFLUENZAE PNEUMONIA	5	0	5	3.3	2	0
H-FLU, PRIMARY BACTEREMIA	4	3	2	3.0	1	1
H-FLU, SEPTIC ARTHRITIS	NR	NR	1	NR	1	0
HANSEN'S DISEASE (LEPROSY)	0	1	0	0.3	0	0
HANTAVIRUS	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
HEMOLYTIC UREMIC SYNDROME	1	2	1	1.3	0	0
HEPATITIS A, ACUTE	14	20	16	16.7	5	5
HEPATITIS B, ACUTE	41	41	38	40.0	14	15
HEPATITIS B, MATERNAL (HBsAg+ Pregnant)	41	38	63	47.3	16	24
HEPATITIS B, PERINATAL ACUTE	0	1	0	0.3	0	0
HEPATITIS B, CHRONIC	145	130	121	132.0	26	44
HEPATITIS C, ACUTE	3	4	2	3.0	0	2
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC	827	1295	1349	1,157.0	261	444
HEPATITIS E, NON-A NON-B, ACUTE	1	1	0	0.7	0	0
HEPATITIS G	NR	NR	1	NR	0	0
HEPATITIS UNSPEC, ACUTE	1	0	0	0.3	0	0
HIV INFECTION	332	303	435	356.7	113	177
INFLUENZA, PEDIATRIC DEATH	0	1	1	0.7	1	1

LEAD POISONING	29	28	17	24.7	3	15
LEGIONELLOSIS	9	8	9	8.7	4	3
LEPTOSPIROSIS	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
LISTERIOSIS	1	2	2	1.7	1	0
LYME DISEASE	7	2	2	3.7	0	1
MALARIA	9	5	1	5.0	1	1
MEASLES	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
MENINGITIS, GROUP B STREP	4	3	2	3.0	2	1
MENINGITIS, H-FLU	1	1	1	1.0	0	0
MENINTITIS, LISTERIA MONO	0	1	0	0.3	0	1
MENINGITIS, OTHER	15	14	9	12.7	1	12
MENINGITIS, S PNEUMO	6	6	1	4.3	0	1
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE	4	1	6	3.7	2	1
MERCURY POISONING	0	1	0	0.3	0	0
MUMPS	2	1	3	2.0	1	5
NEUROTOXIC SHELLFISH POISONING	0	3	0	1.0	0	0
PERTUSSIS	34	43	18	31.7	12	7
PESTICIDE RELATED ILLNESS	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
POLIO, PARALYTIC	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
PSITTACOSIS	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Q FEVER	0	0	2	0.7	0	0
RABIES ANIMAL	8	5	7	6.7	2	1
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER	0	1	2	1.0	0	0
RUBELLA	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
SALMONELLOSIS	299	278	285	287.3	56	64
SHIGELLOSIS	251	140	44	145.0	12	12
SMALLPOX	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
STAPH AUREUS VISA/VRSA	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
STREP DISEASE, INVASIVE GROUP A	7	14	8	9.7	4	7
STREP PNEUMO, INVASIVE DRUG RESIST	46	65	48	53.0	21	24
STREP PNEUMO, INVASIVE SUSCEPTIBLE	35	44	35	38.0	16	14
SYPHILIS, CONGENITAL	0	1	1	0.7	0	NA
SYPHILIS, INFECTIOUS	41	65	107	71.0	9	NA
TETANUS	0	0	1	0.3	0	0
TOXOPLASMOSIS	0	1	2	1.0	0	0
TUBERCULOSIS	90	83	81	84.7	23	2
TYPHOID FEVER, ENDEMIC (MURIN)	1	1	1	1.0	0	0
VARICELLA*	NR	2	42	NA	12	22
VIBRIO ALGINOLYTICUS	1	2	1	1.3	0	0
VIBRIO CHOLERA NON-01	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
VIBRIO FLUVIALIS	0	1	0	0.3	0	0
VIBRIO HOLLISAE	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
VIBRIO PARAHAEMOLYTICUS	2	1	0	1.0	0	0
VIBRIO VULNIFICUS	2	0	0	0.7	0	0
VIBRIO, OTHER	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
WEST NILE FEVER	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
YELLOW FEVER	0	0	0	0.0	0	0