

# EPI—NOTES



## Hillsborough County Health Department

### Disease Surveillance Newsletter



August 31, 2001

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#### WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE

##### Adapted from Florida Department of Health Epi Update, August 24, 2001

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) announced August 24, 2001 that the fourth human encephalitis case caused by the West Nile (WN) virus had been confirmed. The case was reported in a 73-year-old female from Sarasota County. It is believed that the woman contracted the disease while visiting Marathon in the Florida Keys last month. A medical alert is now in effect for Monroe County.

According to acting State Epidemiologist Dr. Steven Wiersma, it is not unexpected that this virus has been found in south Florida. **“Although it might seem unusual that West Nile virus has now been found in the extreme southern part of Florida, this is consistent with migratory bird patterns. We will intensify our surveillance for human and dead bird cases in south Florida and will continue to provide regular updates.”**

So far, there have been four confirmed human cases of WN virus encephalitis and two confirmed cases of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in Florida. The medical alert is currently in effect for 34 Florida counties, including: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton and Washington counties.

The Department of Health urges **all** Floridians to take precautions against mosquito bites. DOH is recommending the following:

- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are likely to be looking for blood meals;
- If you must be outdoors when mosquitoes are active, cover up by wearing shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts;
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET according to manufacturers' directions; and
- Eliminate stagnant water in any receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

For more information on West Nile virus, visit the DOH Bureau of Epidemiology's West Nile website at [www.MyFlorida.com](http://www.MyFlorida.com) (click on West Nile Virus found under Quick Topics) or [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctr/epi/htopics/arbo/index.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctr/epi/htopics/arbo/index.htm) or call the Bureau's hotline at 1-888-880-5782 for recorded information.

#### INFLUENZA SEASON 2001 – 2002

The 2001-2002 influenza surveillance season begins the week of October 1-6, 2001 and concludes approximately on May 13, 2002.

#### Florida Sentinel Surveillance Network

In preparation for the flu season we are looking for physicians who are willing to help us monitor influenza activity in the general population during the 2001-2002 season. If you are interested in participating please call 813-307-8010 for additional information.

#### Vaccinating Nursing Home Residents and Staff

Also in preparation for the flu season we have sent materials about influenza and pneumococcal vaccines and recommendations for outbreak control to local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Vaccination of nursing home residents is effective in preventing hospitalization, pneumonia, invasive disease and death. Vaccination of health-care workers has been associated with reduced work absenteeism and fewer deaths among nursing home patients. Standing orders for influenza and pneumococcal immunizations are recommended by the CDC.

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### July Data Summary Report

DISEASE	Jan-Jul 2001	Jan-Jul 2000	Average total 1998-2000
<b>Vaccine-Preventable Diseases</b>			
Measles	0	0	0
Mumps	1	1	1
Pertussis	2	3	4
Rubella	1	0	< 1
<b>Central Nervous System Diseases</b>			
Meningococcal Disease (including meningitis & meningococemia)	8	4	13
Meningitis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	1	0	1
Meningitis, <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	4	9	12
<b>Acute Hepatitis</b>			
Hepatitis A	25	50	85
Hepatitis B	19	29	54
Hepatitis C	1	1	Not Available
<b>Perinatal Hepatitis B (HBsAg+ Pregnant Woman)</b>	34	14	29
<b>Enteric Diseases</b>			
Campylobacter	31	26	62
Cryptosporidium	4	4	19
E. coli O157:H7	3	5	6
Giardia	49	53	134
Salmonella	85	55	146
Shigella	123	89	134
<b>Respiratory Diseases</b>			
Tuberculosis	47	47	86
Legionella	6	1	1
<b>Environmental Related Diseases</b>			
Lead Poisoning	32	41	167
Rabies in Animal	7	6	8
Food/Waterborne Outbreaks	40	40	69
Food/Waterborne Cases	272	189	575
<b>Miscellaneous Diseases</b>			
Dengue (Imported)	0	0	<1
Lyme Disease (Imported)	2	0	3
Malaria (Imported)	3	5	7
<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	0	1	3
<i>Vibrio vulnificus</i>	0	0	2
<b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</b>			
Chlamydia	1,513	1,464	2,571
Gonorrhea	858	895	1,709
Syphilis, Infectious	12	10	22
Syphilis, Congenital	1	0	4
<b>HIV and AIDS Cases</b>			
HIV Cases Jan-- Jun	229	145	
AIDS Cases Jan - Jun	188	113	

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Epi-Notes is a free newsletter produced by the Hillsborough County Health Department communicable disease programs to provide local information and promote disease reporting. We welcome your comments, questions or suggestions. To add or remove your name from the Epi-Notes list please email your request to [jylmarie\\_kintz@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:jylmarie_kintz@doh.state.fl.us) or fax a request to 813-276-2981.