

# The Pump Handle The Pump Handle



"I had an interview with the Board of Guardians of St. James's parish, on the evening of Thursday, 7th September, and represented the above circumstances to them. In consequence of what I said, the handle of the pump was removed on the following day."

John Snow, 1855

## January 2018 Topics

- In Case You Missed It – Legionellosis Webinar! - Michelle Feist
- Molecular Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel (GPP) - Laura Cronquist
- Healthcare Environmental Services Conference - Michelle Feist
- 2017-18 Influenza Season Update and “Flumps” - Jill Baber



### **In Case You Missed It – Legionellosis Webinar!**

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) presented a webinar on Legionellosis that included presentations from the Divisions of Disease Control, Microbiology, and Health Facilities. This presentation discussed what *Legionella* is, how people are exposed to *Legionella*, and what the environmental factors are that allow *Legionella* to survive and multiply. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s *Legionella* Toolkit was discussed so participants could learn how to use it to assist in developing their water management program. Additional topics included *Legionella* environmental testing and a review of the new water management plan requirements.

The recorded webinar is archived at [www.ndhealth.gov/disease/hai/Training/Default.aspx](http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/hai/Training/Default.aspx).



## Molecular Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel (GPP)

The NDDoH Division of Microbiology is now offering a molecular gastrointestinal pathogen panel (GPP). The GPP can detect and identify the following bacterial, viral, and parasitic causes of gastroenteritis (mandatory reportable conditions are listed in bold, all others are reportable only in clusters):

- ***Campylobacter***
- *Clostridium difficile*, Toxin A/B
- ***Escherichia coli* O157**
- Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC)  
LT/ST
- **Shiga-like toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) *stx1/stx2***
- ***Salmonella***
- ***Shigella***
- ***Vibrio cholerae* toxin gene (ctx)**
- Adenovirus 40/41
- Norovirus GI/GII
- Rotavirus A
- ***Cryptosporidium***
- *Entamoeba histolytica*
- ***Giardia***

Acceptable specimens include 1 mL of refrigerated or frozen raw stool or 1 mL of ambient or refrigerated stool in Cary-Blair transport medium. The cost of the GPP is \$85.00 and the turnaround time is two days. For additional information on the GPP and other tests offered at the NDDoH Division of Microbiology, please see the 2018 Directory of Services which can be found at [www.ndhealth.gov/microlab/docs/2018%20Directory%20of%20Service.PDF](http://www.ndhealth.gov/microlab/docs/2018%20Directory%20of%20Service.PDF) or contact the NDDoH at 701.328.6272. Additional information about reportable conditions can be found at <http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/> or by contacting the NDDoH at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378.



## Healthcare Environmental Services Conference

**Environmental Services**

**A Critical Line of Defense  
in Infection Prevention**

**March 27-28, 2018**

• • •

**Ramada Hotel and  
Conference Center**

• • •

**Bismarck, ND**

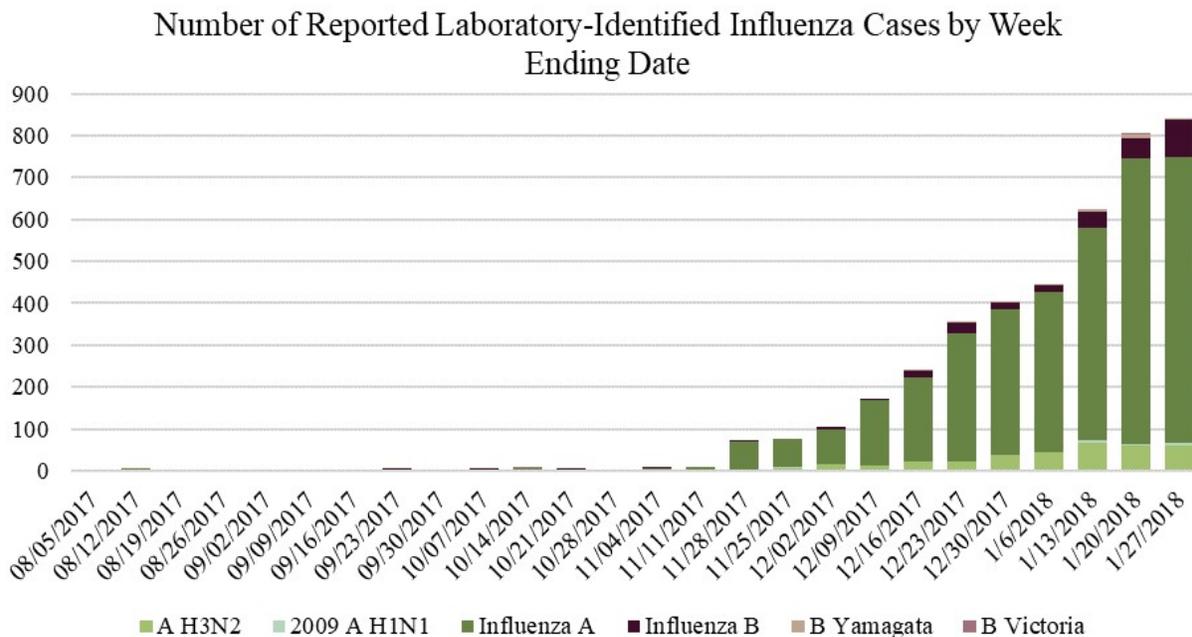
This healthcare environmental services conference will provide a wide range of education for environmental service staff to assist in the development of an effective infection prevention and control program. Conference leader, Greg May, system director of environmental services at

Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, will provide insight into “The Clinical Environment of Care” and will lead discussions on challenges and opportunities within the healthcare environment. There is no registration fee to attend! Click [HERE](#) to register!



## **2017-18 Influenza Season Update and “Flumps”**

Influenza cases for the 2017-18 season continued to increase into January, with 4,189 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) as of January 27, 2018. The influenza A H3N2 strain has predominated so far this season. We often see more cases during influenza A H3N2 seasons, because H3N2 strains are particularly hard on the elderly, although all age groups are affected.



The 2017-18 influenza season is the first season on record where all states in the continental United States have reported widespread activity at the same time. This widespread activity has led to spot shortages of antivirals and commercial influenza testing kits, although manufacturers have reported to the CDC that overall supply of these items should be sufficient for the season. In North Dakota, we have seen a handful of spot shortages for both antivirals and commercial test kits, most often in rural areas where a single large outbreak can quickly deplete the local supply. Providers having trouble finding antivirals locally can contact the NDDoH State Medical Cache at 701-328-2270 for assistance in getting antivirals delivered locally.

The NDDoH has also identified five cases of “flumps” this influenza season. Flumps refers to mumps-negative, influenza-positive patients presenting with parotitis. Most flumps cases also present with respiratory symptoms. Flumps was last reported in North Dakota during the 2014-15 influenza season, and is generally associated with the influenza A H3N2 strain. It is recommended that providers consider influenza as a differential diagnosis in patients presenting with parotitis during an A H3N2-predominant influenza season.



Kirby Kruger, Director, Division of Disease Control; Chief of Medical Services Section  
Molly Howell, MPH, Assistant Director, Division of Disease Control  
Jenny Galbraith, Managing Editor