

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

September 2008 Topics

- West Nile Virus Update
- New U.S. Food and Drug Administration Approved Vaccines
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West Nile Virus (WNV) Update

As of Sept. 30, 2008, 42 human WNV infections have been reported to the state health department. In addition, two dogs from Walsh County, one dog from Ramsey County and one horse and one dog from Grand Forks County tested positive for WNV.

Nationwide, a total of 1,098 human infections have been reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as of Sept. 30, 2008. A map showing the distribution of human, avian, animal and mosquito infection by state can be viewed at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm.

West Nile virus activity is updated Wednesday mornings each week on the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) website at www.ndhealth.gov/wnv.



New U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Approved Vaccines

Three new vaccines recently were approved by FDA. Pentacel®, Kinrix®, and Rotarix®. Pentacel® and Kinrix® are currently available to order through the North Dakota Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Pentacel®, Kinrix® and Rotarix® are all currently available for private purchase.

Pentacel® DTaP-IPV-Hib, vaccine is produced by Sanofi Pasteur. This vaccine is FDA approved for administration to infants and children ages 6 weeks through 4 years (prior to fifth birthday) in a four-dose series at 2, 4, 6 and 15 to 18 months of age. Due to the Hib shortage, the booster dose at 15 to 18 months of age still will be deferred until further notice.

Kinrix® DTaP-IPV vaccine produced by GlaxoSmithKline is intended for use as the fifth dose in the DTaP vaccine series and the fourth dose of IPV in children ages 4 to 6.

Rotarix® is an oral rotavirus vaccine consisting of two doses manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline. The vaccine is approved for administration to infants at 2 and 4 months of age. These two doses complete the series.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program toll-free at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.3386.



2008 Norovirus Surveillance

Noroviruses are the most common cause of infectious gastroenteritis in the United States, resulting in about 23 million illnesses each year. Norovirus outbreaks occurring in institutional settings – including nursing homes, hospitals and schools – are not uncommon, especially during the winter months. Person-to-person spread (among staff, visitors and residents) is a common mode of transmission in these settings. In 2006, two emergent strains of norovirus likely accounted for a nationwide increase of outbreaks in long-term care facilities. Also in 2006, norovirus-associated deaths were reported in the United States for the first time. For more information about 2006 and 2007 norovirus activity in the United States, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5633a2.htm.

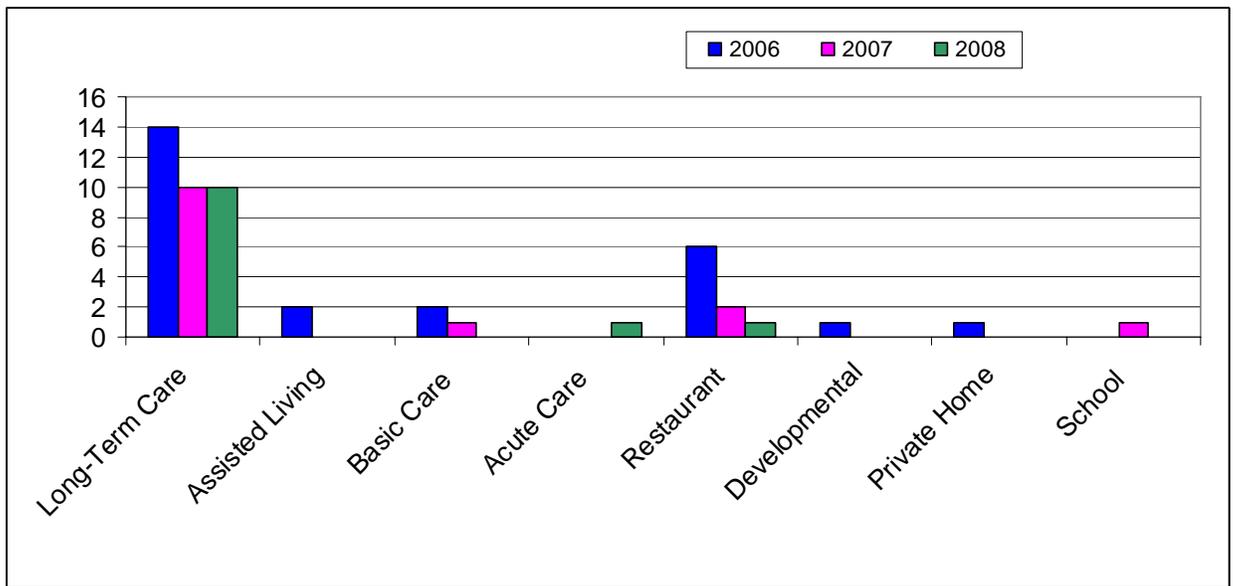
A viral gastroenteritis outbreak is considered consistent with norovirus if ALL of the following are met:

- Vomiting is present in more than 50 percent of cases.
- The incubation period is from 24 to 48 hours.
- The duration of illness is from 12 to 60 hours.
- No bacterial pathogens are isolated from stool.

To confirm etiology of an acute viral gastroenteritis outbreak, two or more stool samples must be confirmed by laboratory testing. Call the NDDoH at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378 for more information about norovirus testing in North Dakota.

Many measures can be utilized to prevent and control a norovirus infection. Practicing good hand hygiene is a very effective infection prevention measure. If you become symptomatic, do not return to work or school until 24 to 72 hours after symptoms resolve. Properly disinfect contaminated surfaces with a chlorine bleach solution with a concentration of 1,000 to 5,000 ppm (1:50 – 1:10) dilution of household bleach [5.25%] for hard, nonporous surfaces.

North Dakota Norovirus Outbreaks by Setting, 2006- Present



Report all outbreaks of suspected acute viral gastroenteritis using the online report form located on the NDDoH Division of Disease Control website at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Gastroenteritis/. For more information about norovirus surveillance in North Dakota, call Sarah Weninger at 701.328.2378.



Influenza Activity and Vaccine Update

As of Oct. 11, 2008, no laboratory identified influenza cases have been reported to the state health department. The best time to get vaccinated is in October and November. However, since the peak influenza season usually does not occur until after the New Year, getting vaccinated in December or later is beneficial. Flu vaccine can be given any time during the influenza season.

There are two types of influenza vaccine available. One is inactivated vaccine that contains killed virus (flu shot), and the other is live attenuated vaccine that contains weakened influenza virus (nasal spray). Both types of influenza vaccine contain three different influenza virus strains: one A (H3N2), one A (H1N1) and one influenza type B.

REMEMBER: You cannot get the flu from the flu vaccine!

This year, the CDC and vaccine manufacturers are projecting that as many as 146 million flu vaccine doses will be available nationwide for the 2008-2009 flu season. In North Dakota alone, a total of 282,780 doses of flu vaccine have been distributed as of Oct. 14, 2008. Vaccine is available for anyone who wants to protect themselves and those around them from the flu.

To see if there is a vaccine clinic in your area or to register a clinic, visit www.flucliniclocator.org.

For more information about influenza or to order free educational materials, visit the NDDoH Influenza website at www.ndflu.com.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Michelle Feist, Abbi Pierce, Julie Goplin, Tracy Miller, and Sarah Weninger. For questions, suggestions or inquiries, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Sarah Weninger of the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2366 or by email at sweninger@nd.gov.

The pump handle picture in the title was obtained from the website www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html.



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