

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 2010 Topics

- Influenza H1N1 Update
- Health-Care-Associated Infections and New Disease Control Employee
- Acute Viral Gastroenteritis Activity Update
- HIV Website and New Brochures! **NEW!**



Influenza H1N1 Update

Influenza activity has remained low since activity started significantly declining in December 2009. As of Feb. 2, 2010, 3,230 laboratory identified influenza cases had been reported from 51 counties. Only nine cases have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) since Jan. 1, 2010. Of the 3,230 cases, 543 have been confirmed as 2009 H1N1 influenza cases. Not every influenza case is subtyped. Of those cases that were subtyped, most were identified as 2009 H1N1; therefore H1N1 is the predominant influenza strain circulating in North Dakota. The median age of all reported influenza cases is 12.93 years (2009 H1N1 median age is 15.32 years), and the ages have ranged from 1 week to 87 years. Of the 3,230 influenza reports, 1,363 reports included hospitalization data, of which 101 cases required hospitalization. Three influenza-related deaths have been reported in North Dakota. One was male and two were female. All were older than 60 with underlying health conditions.

2009-2010 Influenza H1N1 Confirmed Case Summary					
Total Cases		Age Information		Influenza Virus Strains	
		Range	Cases	Type	Cases
Gender		<10	1263	A, Novel H1N1	543
Female	1635	10-19	987	A, H1	0
Male	1595	20-29	445	A, H3	1
		30-39	181	A, Unspecified	2650
Hospitalized	101	40-49	160	B	25
		50-59	130	Unknown	11
Deaths	3	60 and over	64	Total	3,230

Influenza Specimen Submission - Update

The NDDoH is now accepting from all areas of the state surveillance specimens from individuals who present with a fever higher than 100°F, who have a cough or sore throat, and for whom likely causes of illness other than influenza have been ruled out. Samples from hospitalized patients with respiratory illness should be submitted for influenza testing, as well.

It is unknown if we can expect another increase in H1N1 activity or an increase in seasonal influenza activity. Because of this uncertainty, influenza surveillance continues to be important in order to understand the types of viruses that are circulating. To view the complete announcement on the NDDoH Health Alert website, please visit www.ndhan.gov/health/.

Four new influenza posters specific to children, teens and American Indians are now available to order free-of-charge. Check out the NDDoH website at www.ndflu.com for the latest information about influenza or to order influenza campaign materials. If you have additional questions, please contact the NDDoH at 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180.

H1N1 Vaccine Update

Health-care providers throughout North Dakota are encouraged to vaccinate all individuals wishing to be vaccinated against H1N1 influenza. This includes healthy individuals of any age, the elderly and long-term care residents.

As of Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, the NDDoH is no longer allocating H1N1 vaccine to providers based on the number of doses originally prebooked. In order to receive H1N1 vaccine, providers will need to actively place an order for vaccine using the H1N1 Vaccine Order Form. An H1N1 vaccine order form can be found at www.ndflu.com/vaccine.

For more information about H1N1 vaccine, please visit www.ndflu.com/Vaccine/ or call the NDDoH at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378. Questions regarding laboratory testing may be directed to the Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272.



Health-Care-Associated Infections and New Disease Control Employee

The Division of Disease is pleased to welcome Faye Salzer to the division as the health-care-associated infections activities coordinator. Please help us welcome Faye to the Division of Disease Control!

In her position as the HAI activities coordinator, Faye's goal is to prepare a HAI prevention program and a reference manual for use by all facilities in the state. With the assistance of the steering and multidisciplinary committees, we would like to educate health-care providers and the general public about HAIs and develop a reporting program to help facilities identify and address HAI problems.

Name: Faye Salzer

Title: Health-Care-Associated Infections Activities Coordinator

Education Background: I took my generals at Minot State and finished my nursing program at Trinity School of Nursing in Minot.

Past Experience: Over the past 25-plus years, I have worked in home health and hospice, as a parish nurse, in acute and long-term care, and as a clinical and public health nurse, as well as in nursing administration, including 15 years of infection control and filling in for surgery and the emergency room.

Family/Hobbies: I live in Ashley with my husband Vaughn, who is an electrical contractor and two of our children, Brayden who is a senior and Raechelle who is in the eighth grade. Our oldest son, Dustin, lives in Ashley and is preparing for his electrical journeyman's license while working for the family business. I enjoy following my children's sporting events, scrap booking, boating at the lake and spending time with family and friends, including our group's yearly ski trip with all the kids!



Acute Viral Gastroenteritis Activity Update

Since Dec. 1, 2009, there have been two confirmed viral gastroenteritis outbreaks reported to the NDDoH by long-term-care facilities. Both outbreaks have been confirmed as norovirus. Additionally, three family events have been confirmed as norovirus outbreaks. A total of five confirmed norovirus outbreaks have occurred in Cass, Grand Forks, Ward and Williams counties.

Outbreaks of gastroenteritis most often occur in the winter and early spring. Norovirus is the most common cause of viral gastroenteritis outbreaks and is often called the "winter vomiting disease" or "stomach flu." Although it is commonly referred to as the stomach flu, it has no relationship to the influenza virus that causes respiratory infections. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates noroviruses cause 23 million cases of acute gastroenteritis each year and about 50 percent of all foodborne outbreaks.

Practice good hand hygiene, disinfect contaminated surfaces and do not return to work or school until 24 to 72 hours after symptoms resolve are recommended measures for the prevention and control of norovirus infections. Please visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5633a2.htm for more information about the prevention of norovirus.

To report an acute viral gastroenteritis outbreak, please contact the NDDoH at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378 or submit an online report form at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/GI/.



HIV Website and New Brochures! **NEW!**

Check out the new and improved HIV/AIDS website. The new website is divided into three sections: HIV Prevention, HIV Care and HIV Surveillance. The website includes programs and services, information for contracted sites and our frequently requested materials. Also on the website is information about the HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium May 19 through 20, 2010, in Fargo, N.D. A tentative agenda is now posted on the website at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Hepatitis/Training/HepSymposium.htm.

New educational resources were developed by the program. A tattoo card was developed in coordination with the Viral Hepatitis Program. The card was sent to all tattoo parlors and counseling, testing and referral sites in the state, targeting individuals who have had a tattoo or piercing in jail or on the street to get tested for HIV and hepatitis C. A new HIV fact sheet and brochure also were developed. These resources and others are available free of charge from the NDDoH HIV/AIDS Program. The order form can be found at www.ndhealth.gov/HIV/Program%20Material/Program%20Materials.htm.

For more information about other HIV/AIDS services, call the North Dakota Department of Health HIV/AIDS Program hotline at 800.70.NDHIV or visit the program's website at www.ndhealth.gov/hiv.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Faye Salzer, Krissie Guerard, Abbi Pierce, Michelle Feist, Julie Wagendorf, Kirby Kruger, 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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