



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

For Joplin City, Barton, Dade, Jasper, McDonald, Newton and Vernon Counties

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Special Point of interest

Governor Matt Blunt recently signed a proclamation designating May as Missouri Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Month to underscore the risk of tick-borne disease and the importance of prevention, especially as Missourians prepare for summer outdoor activities.

Source: Missouri DHSS

May Designated as Missouri Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Month



Ticks are responsible for more human diseases than any other insect in U.S.

Tick-borne diseases are infectious and can be transmitted between animals and humans. Ticks become infected with a disease-causing agent by feeding on infected animals and later transmitting the bacteria to other animals, including human. In Missouri, the common human tick-borne diseases include:

- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever,
- Ehrlichiosis
- Tularemia
- Q-fever
- Lyme or a Lyme-like disease.
- Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness

Tick-borne diseases are generally on the rise, which can be attributed to better recognition and reporting, as well as changes in the environment thus fostering increased exposure and transmission to humans. Fortunately, not all tick bites are necessarily disease causing. However, proper precautions can reduce the chances of tick bites.

Tick-borne Disease Prevention

- Walk in the center of trails to avoid overhanging brush and tall grass.
- Apply insect repellent containing 20-50% DEET for adults and 30% DEET or less for children over 2 months old on the skin.
- Permethrin can be effective in killing ticks on the clothing if used according to instructions.
- Wear light-colored clothing as this helps you spot ticks more easily.

- Tuck or even tape your pant legs into your socks as it helps slow down the ticks in their quest for your skin when walking on the trails.

Tick removal

Ticks should be removed promptly because the longer they are attached, the greater the risk of infection. Tweezers are preferred. They can be used correctly by positioning the tip around the area where the tick's mouthparts enter the skin. Then use a slow, steady motion when pulling the tick a way from the skin. After removing the tick, disinfect the skin with soap and water, or other available disinfectants.

Signs & Symptoms of Tick-borne Disease

The signs & symptoms can vary among individuals and according to the infecting agent. In general, the symptoms may include;

- Sudden high fever,
- Severe headache,
- Muscle or joint aches, or
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea,
- Rash or pus-filled wound that appears at the site of a tick bite, or a spreading rash following tick bites or exposure to ticks.

Inform the healthcare provider if the symptoms occur after a tick bite, or after exposure to tick habitat.

Reporting Tick-borne Disease

Most tick-borne diseases are reportable in Missouri to help monitor disease trends, track unusual occurrences or clusters of diseases, and identify possible risk factors associated with such diseases. For general information go to; www.dhss.mo.gov/TicksCarryDisease or www.cdc.gov/Features/StopTicks/.

Source: Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

Communicable Disease Report

Table 1

Cumulative Cases From January Through End of April By Local Jurisdiction and Year (2007 & 2008) (Includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases)														
CONDITION/YEAR BY LPHA	JOPLIN		JASPER		BARTON		DADE		MCDON-		VERNON		NEWTON	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
ANIMAL BITES	71	29	29	34	4	1	3	1	8	1	1	1	7	9
BLASTOMYCOSIS	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	1	1	3	5	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	0	2
CREUTZFELDT-JACOB DIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	0
E. COLI SHIGA TOXIN	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E. COLI O157 H7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
EHRlichiosis HME	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
GIARDIASIS	3	1	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
HEPATITIS B (INFANT) PERI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
HEPATITIS B PREGNANCY	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	3	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC IN	42	35	24	19	4	1	4	0	8	14	12	5	12	21
LISTERIOSIS	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LYME	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MUMPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Q FEVER	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RABIES POST EXPOSURE PR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOT	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	6	0
SALMONELLOSIS	3	4	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	2	3
SHIGA TOXIN+(NON-ECOLI	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHIGELLOSIS	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STREP DIS, GRP A INVASIVE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
STREP PNEUMONIAE, <5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STREP PNEUMONIAE, DR	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TULAREMIA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	6	0	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Crystal Reports

Data period : January through end of April 2008

There was a significant decrease in animal bites in Joplin city from 71 cases in 2007 to 29 cases in 2008. However, only Jasper and Newton counties showed slight increases in animal bites from 2007 to 2008. During this period, there was only one reported suspect Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease case in Dade county in 2008. Additionally, all the counties other than Barton showed an increase in Salmonellosis cases from 2007 to 2008. Two counties, McDonald and Newton, reported increases in Chronic Hepatitis C from 2007.

In terms of the total number of cases reported in the counties for the 4 months in 2007 and 2008, Joplin city had the greatest decline from 135 to 79 cases, Barton from 16 to 5, Dade from 8 to 7 and Vernon from 21 to 19. Other counties had increases as follows; Jasper from 78 to 81, McDonald from 19 to 21 and Newton from 37 to 44 cases.

Analysis: Joseph Njenga

FEATURED DISEASE / CONDITION

Salmonellosis: A Gastroenteritis illness with most cases occurring in summer

What is salmonellosis?

Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection that usually affects the intestines and occasionally the bloodstream. It is one of the more common causes of gastroenteritis with several hundred cases occurring in Missouri each year. Most cases occur in summer months.

Any person can get Salmonellosis, but it is identified more often in infants and children.

How are Salmonella bacteria spread?

Salmonella bacteria are spread by direct contact with an infected person, by eating or drinking contaminated food or water or by contact with contaminated object or animal.

What are the symptoms of Salmonellosis?

Diarrhea, cramping, fever, nausea, vomiting, and headache. Some people may have very mild or no symptoms but some infections can be quite serious, especially in the very young and elderly.

How soon after exposure does symptoms appear?

They may generally appear 12 to 36 hours after exposure but may take days.

Where are Salmonella bacteria found?

The bacteria is found in many places in our food chain and environment . The bacteria often contaminate raw meats, eggs, and unpasteurized milk and cheese products. Other sources may include reptiles, chicks and other fowl, dogs, cats and farm animals.

How long can an infected person carry Salmonella?

A person can carry the bacteria from several days to many months. Infants and people who have been treated with oral antibiotics tend to carry the bacteria longer than others.

How can Salmonella infections be diagnosed?

Many different kinds of illnesses can cause diarrhea, fever, or abdominal cramps. Salmonella bacteria is identified through laboratory tests of the stools of an infected person.

Should infected people be excluded from school or work?

People with diarrhea need to be excluded from child care,

food service or any other group activity where they may represent a risk to others. Most infected people may return to work or school when their diarrhea stops if they carefully wash hands after using bathroom. Food handlers, children and staff in child care settings, and health care workers must obtain the approval of the local or state health department before returning to their routine activities.

What is the treatment for Salmonella?

Antibiotics for salmonella are usually not recommended for uncomplicated cases. Most people with salmonella will recover without treatment. Some may require fluids to prevent dehydration.

How can Salmonellosis be prevented?

- There is no vaccine to prevent salmonellosis. The single most important way to prevent the spread of the disease is careful hand-washing after use of bathroom, before preparation of foods, after handling raw meat, after completion of food preparation, after handling animals, especially reptiles, or their feces
- Thoroughly cook all foods derived from animal sources.
- Refrigerate foods promptly; don't hold at room temperature any longer than necessary
- Wash cutting boards, utensils, and food preparation counters with soap and water immediately after use.
- Cook poultry, ground beef, and eggs thoroughly before eating. Do not eat or drink foods containing raw eggs, or raw unpasteurized milk.
- Prevent cross contamination. Never let raw meat and poultry, or their juices, come in contact with cooked meat or any other food, raw or cooked.

How can I learn more about this and other public health problems?

You can discuss medical concerns with your health care provider. Your local City or County Health Department can provide more information about public health problems that are occurring in your area. They track important public health problems, investigating special problems that arise, and helping to prevent them from occurring in the first place, or from spreading if they do occur.

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services & CDC

A Note to All Health-care Providers

Salmonellosis is a reportable illness in Missouri (19CSR 20-20.020). It should be reported to the local health authority or Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services within three (3) calendar days of the first knowledge or suspicion.

A CD-1 form is used in reporting Salmonellosis, among other reportable diseases and conditions. CD-1 form can be obtained by contacting your local health authority or from the DHSS website.

To find out more about the reportable diseases and conditions in Missouri, contact your Local health departments or visit Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services website at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/CommunicableDisease/reportablediseaselist2.pdf>



Contacts

Health Department Administrators

Joplin City : Dan Pekarek
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Jasper County: Tony Moehr
(417) 358-3111

Newton County: Bob Kulp
(417) 451-3743

McDonald County: Amy Haskett
(417) 223-4351

Barton County: Linda Talbot
(417) 682-3363

Dade County: Pamela Allen
(417) 637-2345

Vernon County: Beth Swopes
(417) 667-7418

Questions/Comments?

Please contact:

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For local Pandemic Influenza resources, please visit www.JascoFlu.com

IF YOUR INSTITUTION WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SURVEILLANCE IS A VITAL PROCESS IN DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Upcoming Events / Trainings

Risk Communication Media Seminar, CERC Advanced Training in May and June. For more information, contact Laura Kliethermes at the DHSS at 573-526-4768 OR laura.kliethermes@dhss.mo.gov

Laboratory Specimen Collection Training on June 25, 2008 at the State Public Health Laboratory in Jefferson City from 9:30-3:00pm. Contact the Region D Senior Epidemiology Specialist, John Bos (John.bos@dhss.mo.gov). Space for training is limited to about 100 participants.

Principles of Epidemiology Course – July 15-16

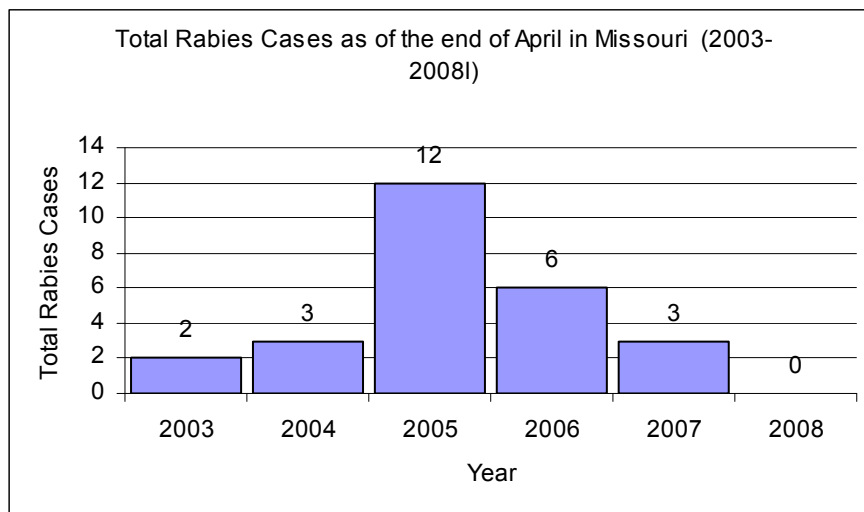
You can access the on-line portion of the course at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/EPI/Instructions>. After which you will attend a two days of face-to-face exercises in Jefferson City on July 15 and 16. Class size is limited. For more information, call 573-751-6113.

Rabies Cases in Missouri To-Date by Year

Animal bites are an important public health concern especially due to the rabies cases associated with the bites. However, not all animal bites result to rabies. The bites commonly reported include dog, cat, skunk, bat, cow, horse, raccoon, and fox. According to the data below, there were 26 cases of rabies as of the end of April (2003-2008). Sixty nine percent (69%) of the total rabies cases resulted from skunk bites, followed by bat bites (23%). There was one cow bite and one horse bite (4% each). There was no confirmed animal rabies case within the 4 months period in 2008 in Missouri.

Source: Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services; Analyzed by Joseph Njenga

Table 2



Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

“You must be the change that you want to see in the world.” (Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948)