



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter

Division of Disease Control

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Epidemiology Programs/Services

Disease Investigation Section
Hepatitis Program
Nursing Home/ALF Program
Epidemic Intelligence Service

To report diseases or request information
call (Mon-Fri, 8-5, Area code 727):

Epidemiology	824-6932
Hepatitis Program	824-6932
HIV/AIDS	824-6964
Immunizations	824-6936
STD	824-6911
Tuberculosis	824-6953
Non-business hours	824-6900

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and distributed by the Pinellas County Health
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Operation Vaccinate Florida

Suzanne Dabroski, MSPH and Gayle Guidash, MPH

Smallpox is an acute, infectious and sometimes fatal disease feared worldwide for centuries until its eradication in 1979. The last naturally acquired case of smallpox occurred in Somalia in 1977; however, the last documented case worldwide occurred in 1978 due to a laboratory accident. In the atmosphere of terrorist threats and the potential for smallpox to be used as a biological weapon, President Bush announced a plan to better protect the American people against the threat of a smallpox attack. Governor Bush and Florida Department of Health (DOH) Secretary, Dr. John Agwunobi, commended this decision and in an effort of support and cooperation the FDOH is coordinating Operation Vaccinate Florida (OVF). OVF is a three-stage initiative designed to prepare healthcare response teams and protect Florida's residents against the threat of smallpox. The three stages of OVF are:

Stage I: Scheduled to begin on February 10, this stage will start with health department personnel. The Pinellas County Health Department is prepared to begin on this date. Vaccination of hospital response team volunteers is planned to begin on February 24.

Stage II: Will include the vaccination of first responders including, law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel and other healthcare professionals. Approximately 300,000-400,000 doses will be available statewide during this stage.

Stage III: Will include the voluntary vaccination of the general public; however, no start date has been determined.

The goal of Stage I is to have pre-vaccinated healthcare professionals available to respond to a suspected or confirmed case of smallpox. The health department will be responsible for conducting epidemiologic investigations of smallpox cases and the hospital response teams will be tasked with treating and managing case-patients. The Department of Health encourages every healthcare facility to be a participating partner in this important preparedness effort; however, the level of involvement is voluntary.

Individuals considering smallpox vaccination should be well informed about smallpox disease, the vaccine, and its side effects, including potentially life-threatening reactions. Information regarding smallpox can be accessed by visiting www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/. Please feel free to call the Pinellas County Health Department at 727-824-6932 for additional information.

*"The reason for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on a disease is to control that disease.
Collection and analysis should not be allowed to consume resources if action does not follow."*

--Foege WH et al. *Int. J of Epidemiology* 1976; 5:29-37.

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2003 January	2003 Year-to-Date	2002 Year-to-Date	2002 Total
Human Arboviral Illness:				
Eastern Equine Encephalitis				
Dengue				
St. Louis Encephalitis				
West Nile Virus				
Anthrax				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	6	6		43
Cryptosporidiosis				5
Cyclosporiasis				1
Diphtheria				
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				6
Giardiasis	2	2	7	55
<i>H. influenzae</i> : Meningitis				
Pneumonia				
Primary bacteremia				4
Hepatitis: A	3	3	2	25
B	3	3	3	60
C	1	1		14
Hepatitis B: Perinatal				
Pregnant woman +HBsAg	3	3	2	35
Legionellosis	3	3	1	9
Listeriosis			1	1
Lyme Disease			1	12
Malaria			1	4
Measles				
Meningitis: <i>Group B Strep</i>				
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>				
Meningococcal				2
<i>Strep Pneumoniae</i>				4
Other				13
Meningococemia				7
Mumps				
Pertussis				1
Plague (Bubonic; Pneumonic)				
Poliomyelitis				
Rubella				
Salmonellosis	7	7	1	176
Shigellosis	2	2	4	73
Smallpox				
<i>Streptococcal</i> Disease, Inv. Group A			1	24
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease	2	2	6	28
Toxoplasmosis			1	4

Provisional cases reported by the Epidemiology Program, Pinellas County Health Department.
Blank cells indicate no cases reported.

For a complete list of reportable diseases and guidelines for reporting please visit:
www9.myflorida.com/disease_ctrl/epi/index.html