



# Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



Division of Disease Control  
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To report diseases or request  
information call:

(Mon-Fri, 8-5, Area code 727):  
Epidemiology 824-6932  
Hepatitis 824-6932  
HIV/AIDS 824-6964  
Immunizations 824-6936  
STD 824-6911  
Tuberculosis 824-6953  
**Non-business hours 824-6900**

**Epi Watch** is a monthly newsletter  
produced and distributed by the  
Pinellas County Health Department  
Epidemiology Program.

## **SHIGELLOSIS**

Diana G. Jordan, RN, MPH, MS & Hunter R. Zager, BS

The Pinellas County Health Department has observed a significant increase in the number of reported shigellosis cases from April 1 through October 10, 2005 (98 cases) compared to the same time frame last year (11 cases). The majority of cases have been scattered in the lower half of Pinellas County, with the highest concentration within three zip code areas of St. Petersburg. The infection is readily passed within households.

Shigellosis is an intestinal illness that generally last 4-7 days. Symptoms may include bloody diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, fever, and headache. Some infections may present as mild or even asymptomatic. Transmission occurs through the fecal/oral route with as few as 10-100 bacteria causing illness. Proper hand washing is the single most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission.

Recommendations to control the spread of shigellosis include: education of individuals and the public regarding good hand washing and food preparation; stool testing in persons who have symptoms lasting more than two days; and exclusion of persons from work in sensitive situations such as food establishments, day care facilities, and schools if symptomatic.

### **Tips to help avoid infection:**

- Wash hands carefully before preparing food.
- Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly, especially those eaten raw.
- Wash hands, utensils, and kitchen surfaces with hot soapy water after contact with raw meat or poultry.
- Cook all food thoroughly.
- Eat cooked foods promptly and refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours after cooking.
- Drink only pasteurized milk and juices and treated surface water.
- Wash hands carefully after using the bathroom, changing infant diapers, petting animals, or cleaning up their feces.

Attached is a map of Pinellas County shaded to represent the concentration of shigellosis cases per Zip Code area. For further information, call Hunter Zager at 507-4336, or e-mail her at [Hunter.Zager@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Hunter.Zager@doh.state.fl.us).

NA = Not Available

**Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County**

Disease	2005 September	2005 Year-to-Date	2004 Year-to-Date	2004 Total
AIDS	NA	127 (as of 8/31)	111 (as of 8/31)	213
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	5	37	39	59
Animal Rabies		4	7	4
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue		4		
EEE				
SLE		2		
WNV	5	18		
CA/LaCrosse			1	1
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	2	32	38	46
Chlamydia	250	1,382	1,707	2,312
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)		2	1	2
Cryptosporidiosis	5	10	3	7
Cyclosporiasis		57		1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	1	2	2	2
Giardiasis	7	23	24	28
Gonorrhea	145	831	985	1,305
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		1	1	1
Primary bacteremia		3	4	5
Epiglottitis			1	1
Hansen Disease		1		
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)		1		
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A	3	8	10	12
B	5	25	31	48
C		5	12	14
Non-A, Non-B		1	5	5
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	3	25	23	26
HIV	NA	191 (as of 8/31)	147 (as of 8/31)	247
Legionellosis	1	6	11	14
Listeriosis		1		
Lyme Disease		7	3	4
Malaria		1	4	4
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep			1	1
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		4	1	1
Other bacterial		3	2	2
Meningococcal Disease		4	3	4
Mercury Poisoning			1	1
Mumps		1		
Pertussis	4	8	12	15
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)				
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever		1	1	1
Salmonellosis	28	119	117	170
Shigellosis	14	109	12	19
Smallpox				
<i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A	1	10	5	8
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)		18	17	22
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suspect)		25	19	21
Syphilis:				
Total	7	59	71	126
Infectious (P and S)	4	27	22	49
Early Latent	1	20	30	39
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	2	12	19	38
Congenital				
Tuberculosis	1	19	30	35
<i>Vibrio</i> infections		3	6	10

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

For a complete list of reportable diseases and guidelines for reporting please visit:

[http://www.myflorida.com/disease\\_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8\\_4.pdf](http://www.myflorida.com/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8_4.pdf)

# Number of Shigellosis Cases in Pinellas County by Zip Code of Residence, 4/1/05 - 10/10/05

