



Livingston County

Department of Public Health

Communicable Disease Update

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HUMAN RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

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Rabies in humans is 100% preventable through prompt, appropriate medical care, yet more than 55,000 people, mostly in Africa and Asia, die from rabies every year. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is the treatment given to people exposed to potentially or known rabid animals. Guidelines for PEP have been developed by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and generally include one dose of rabies immune globulin (RIG) and a series of four doses of rabies vaccine given over a 14-day period. A flow chart of the Michigan Rabies Protocol is available at www.docs-archive.com/Michigan-Rabies-Protocol.pdf. There has never been a case of rabies in a person who has received PEP administered in accordance with the ACIP recommended guidelines. Please call the Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) Communicable Disease program at (517) 552-6882 for recommendations regarding rabies PEP.

LYME DISEASE

Carly Adams, MPH
Regional Epidemiologist

Lyme disease, which is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks, is the number one emerging vector borne disease in Michigan. Blacklegged ticks have been expanding in lower Michigan since they were first detected in 2002 on the western shoreline. They can now be found as far east as Ingham County. Therefore, if you find a tick feeding on a person or a domestic animal, you may want it identified to determine the species of tick and screened for the presence of disease causing organisms. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) provides tick identification at no charge to Michigan residents. Ticks that are submitted from people, are identified as blacklegged, and are alive will be forwarded to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) for Lyme disease screening at no cost. Ticks that are submitted from animals or are dead when they are received may be forwarded to the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health for testing at a charge (\$55) to the submitter. The testing performed on the tick will depend on the species of the tick. Tick submission kits and other educational materials can be found on the "MDHHS Communicable Disease Publications Order Form," at www.michigan.gov/cdinfo.

[Please see page 2 for additional articles.]

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5 DETECTED IN MICHIGAN

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The Michigan departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced on June 8, 2015 that the state's first confirmed cases of HPAI, subtype H5N2, were detected in free-ranging Canada geese in Macomb County. Three HPAI A/H5 viruses have been identified in birds in the United States since December 2014: H5N2, H5N8, and H5N1. The viruses have been detected in wild birds, captive wild birds, backyard poultry, and commercial poultry in the Pacific, Central, and Mississippi Flyways (or migratory bird paths). There have been over 220 detections reported from 21 different states and more than 47,000,000 birds affected. Prior to the detection of HPAI in Michigan, there were numerous detections in mid-western states, including Indiana, Wisconsin, and also Ontario, Canada, which led the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to cancel all Michigan 2015 poultry and waterfowl exhibitions on June 1, 2015.

To date, no human cases of these HPAI H5 viruses have been detected in the United States or internationally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the risk to people to be low, but remains cautious as other HPAI H5 viruses have had the ability to cause human illness. Those at the greatest risk for potential infection would be persons with direct contact with infected birds and/or their secretions/droppings. Clinicians should consider the possibility of HPAI H5 virus infection in persons showing signs or symptoms of respiratory illness who have relevant exposure history. Residents who notice the death loss of three or more free-ranging birds should report it to DNR at (517) 336-5030. Owners of domestic flocks that are experiencing severe illness or multiple death losses should contact MDARD at (800) 292-3939 or (517) 373-0440 for after-hours emergencies.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES FOR IMMUNIZATION WAIVERS

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LCDPH has begun offering waiver education appointments, and to date have issued over 150 waivers. Based on the number of waivers collected in the 2014/2015 school year, LCDPH anticipates approximately 500 to 800 total waivers to be issued in the 2015/2016 school year. If you have patients that are attending daycare, preschool, or kindergarten; have adolescent patients entering 7th grade; or have students changing school districts that are choosing not to vaccinate, please remind them to make their appointment for waiver education with LCDPH. **Appointments are limited and clients wishing to sign a waiver are encouraged to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.** Medical waivers for true medical contraindications to vaccinations are still issued by the physician.

Just a reminder: adults need immunizations too! Tdap, Hepatitis A & B, pneumococcal, zoster and influenza should be considered for all adults based on age, medical conditions, and previous vaccination status. Providers are encouraged to report adult immunizations to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). For more information about how to participate with MCIR please visit: www.mcir.org.

Call LCDPH at (517) 546-9850 to report or consult about a communicable disease. We are available 24/7. If it is after business hours, call 911 and they will contact the appropriate staff.