



# Livingston County Health Department Communicable Disease Update

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## **INFLUENZA A (H1N2) VARIANT ASSOCIATED WITH FOWLerville FAIR**

The Fowlerville Fair was held from July 23-28, 2018. Many of the pigs that were being exhibited at the Fair became ill during the week of the Fair. Upon testing, a number of the ill pigs were found to be positive for swine influenza on July 27. Three attendees of the Fowlerville Fair with swine exposure and who became ill were subsequently found to be positive for Influenza A H1N2 variant strain from respiratory samples sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, after initially testing positive for Influenza A at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Laboratory in Lansing. Influenza viruses that circulate in swine are called “swine” influenza viruses when isolated from pigs, but are called “variant” influenza viruses when isolated from humans. None of the ill individuals were hospitalized and all have recovered. No human-to-human transmission has been identified. The swift action taken by the Fowlerville Fair Board in closing the swine barns quickly, likely prevented additional human illness.

Since 2005, when novel influenza strains began to be reported nationally, only 18 cases (including these three Michigan cases) have been reported to CDC. Rapid identification and investigation of human cases is important to more fully understand the risk of infections and preventive measures needed. A collaborative effort between Livingston County medical providers who initiated testing, the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD), that facilitated testing for Influenza A at the MDHHS Lab in Lansing, and the Influenza Section at MDHHS, assisted in rapidly detecting this variant strain during the off-season for influenza.

## **NEW CDC DATA SHOWS THREE STDs AT ALL-TIME HIGHS**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), new data indicates that the rates of three sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis, hit an all-time high in 2017. The CDC said that the United States is on track to have 1.7 million cases of chlamydia infections, 555,608 cases of gonorrhea, and 30,644 cases of primary and secondary syphilis in 2017. Overall, this is 200,000 more cases of these three reportable STDs than in 2016, and the fourth year in a row that the U.S. has had a significant increase in these diseases. The United States continues to have the highest STD rates in the industrialized world, leading to \$16 billion in preventable health care costs each year.

Previous studies suggest that a wide range of factors are contributing to these STD increases, including socioeconomic factors and drug use. In 2005, the CDC began recommending that health care providers prescribe a single shot of ceftriaxone accompanied by an oral dose of azithromycin to people diagnosed with gonorrhea to help delay the development of antibiotic resistance to ceftriaxone. Emerging resistance to ceftriaxone has not been seen since the dual therapy approach was implemented, and there has not been a confirmed treatment failure in the U.S. when using this recommended therapy. Clinicians are encouraged to make STD screening and timely treatment a standard part of medical care, especially for the populations most affected.

## WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)

As of September 11, 2018, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has identified West Nile Virus (WNV) in twenty-one (21) Michigan residents, resulting in two deaths. The deaths occurred in residents of Wayne and Kent Counties. There have been no confirmed cases from Livingston County at this time, however, statewide surveillance has shown a recent increase in the number of WNV-infected mosquitos and birds reported recently. August and September are the months of peak WNV activity in Michigan.

## PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PREP) FOR HIV PREVENTION

Are you interested in becoming a provider of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV? Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a powerful prevention tool to reduce to risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk and will assist in ending the transmission of HIV. The medication is a single pill (trade name Truvada) that contains two medications (tenofovir and emtricitabine). This combination medication was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use as an HIV treatment in 2004, and was approved as PrEP in July 2012. When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92%. People must commit to taking the drug daily and seeing their health care provider every three months for HIV testing and other follow-up.

The new federal guidelines for health care providers recommend that PrEP be considered for people who are HIV-negative and **at substantial risk for HIV infection.**

A telephone PrEP Consultation Service for Clinicians is available 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday-Friday: 1-855-448-7737 (1-855-HIV-PREP). Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Clinical Practice Guidelines from the U.S. Public Health Service can be found on the CDC's website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has a PrEP Provider Toolkit and other resources for providers, at [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs).

Livingston County has a need for providers of PrEP. If you are interested, please call Kris Moyer, RN, at 517-552-6828.

## BECOME A MICHIGAN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER

Medical providers of any specialty (e.g. family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease) in nearly any setting (e.g. private practice, urgent care center, emergency department, university student health center) who are likely to see patients with influenza-like illness can be sentinel providers. For information about becoming a sentinel provider please contact MDHHS at (517) 335-8159.

Call LCHD 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.