



THE PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

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Chlamydia in Clinton County



Chlamydia has been the most frequently reported communicable disease in Clinton County for years. Locally, reports increased by 28 % in 2008 and by 49% in 2009. More than half of the 203 cases reported here in 2009 were among persons identified as students \geq 18 years of age, with infections in female students accounting for 88% of these cases. Recent increased availability of testing and a new diagnostic test using urine has contributed to more people being tested, especially among males.

Providers are encouraged to screen for STIs in all sexually active patients 15 years old and above and identify sexual contacts. Counsel individuals on safer sex practices including abstinence and the use of condoms. Current treatment guidelines may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/>

Free diagnosis and treatment for Chlamydia and other STIs are provided by the Clinton County Health Department. Referrals and appointments may be made by calling Planned Parenthood of the North Country NY at 518-561-4430. Services include HIV counseling and testing and hepatitis and HPV vaccines.

If you need patient education materials or clinic posters for your office, please call the Health Department at 565-4848.

New Laws Promote HIV Testing & Remove Barriers to Needle Exchange and Syringe Access



Governor Paterson announced the enactment of two laws to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS by updating NY's HIV testing law.

The Governor signed into law S.8227/A.11487, which will allow patients to agree to HIV testing as part of a general signed consent to medical care that remains in effect until it is revoked or expires. The bill will also require health care providers to offer testing to their patients between 13 and 64 years of age, as recommended by the CDC, and will facilitate authorization for testing in the case of certain occupational exposures to HIV infection. This legislation aims to increase HIV testing rates by informing people of their status and allowing them to begin treatment at an earlier stage, which significantly improves the length and quality of life.

The Governor also signed into law his Program Bill No. 23, which will clarify and enhance existing law regarding the possession of syringes or needles by individuals who participate in needle exchange programs.

For additional information, see the attachment from NYSDOH, "Dear Colleague" letter or visit nyhealth.gov.

Become an Influenza ILINet Surveillance Provider

In collaboration with the NYSDOH and the CDC, an ILINet provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in order to provide a state and nationwide picture of influenza virus and ILI activity. For each participating provider, surveillance consists of reporting the total number of patients visits and the total number of patient visits with ILI (fever over 100 degrees F with a cough or sore throat) by age group each week. Reporting typically takes less than 30 minutes per week. In addition, ILINet providers are able to submit a designated number of patient specimens to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center for viral testing and sub-typing free of charge. During the 2009-2010 season, providers were asked to submit up to two specimens per week.

The goal is to have representation of health care providers' patient populations that reflects the makeup of the population of NYS. Currently, Clinton County has two providers that provide surveillance data and is seeking increased enrollment of health care providers specializing in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Geriatrics and those serving older adults will be emphasized.

For more information:
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National Preparedness Month



National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September. The goal of National Preparedness Month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks, at home, work and school. Events and activities across the nation encourage individuals to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and get involved in preparing their communities. For more information on this campaign visit Ready.gov - [Emergencies and Preparedness](#).

Locally, the Clinton County Health Department has a speakers bureau that will provide presenters to speak on a variety of topics including emergency preparedness. If your agency or business is interested, please call 565-4848.

Is Your Business Prepared?

Does your business have an emergency plan? Business continuity and crisis management can be complex issues, however, putting a plan in motion will improve the likelihood that the business will survive and recover during a disaster. Here are some tips to consider:

Involve Co-Workers: Include people from all levels in emergency planning.

Promote Preparedness: Encourage employees and their families to: Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed.

Write a Crisis Communication Plan: Detail how the business will be in contact with employees, customers and others during and after a disaster.

Practice the Plan: Drills and exercises will help to prepare.

Clinton County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Primary Changes and Updates in the 2010 Influenza Recommendations



□ Routine influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged ≥ 6 months. This represents an expansion of the previous recommendations for annual vaccination of all adults aged 19--49 years and is supported by evidence that annual influenza vaccination is a safe and effective preventive health action with potential benefit in all age groups.

□ As in previous recommendations, all children aged 6 months--8 years who receive a seasonal influenza vaccine for the first time should receive 2 doses. Children who received only 1 dose of a seasonal influenza vaccine in the first influenza season that they received vaccine should receive 2 doses, rather than 1, in the following influenza season. In addition, for the 2010--11 influenza season, children aged 6 months--8 years who did not receive at least 1 dose of an influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccine should receive 2 doses of a 2010--11 seasonal influenza vaccine, regardless of previous influenza vaccination history.

□ 2010--11 trivalent vaccines will contain A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like, A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like antigens. The influenza A (H1N1) vaccine virus is derived from a 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus.

□ A newly approved inactivated trivalent vaccine containing 60 mcg of hemagglutinin antigen per influenza vaccine virus strain (Fluzone High-Dose [Sanofi Pasteur]) is an alternative inactivated vaccine for persons aged ≥ 65 years. Persons aged ≥ 65 years can be administered any of the standard-dose TIV preparations or Fluzone High-Dose.

* Continued in next column

□ Previously approved inactivated influenza vaccines that were approved for expanded age indications in 2009 include Fluarix (GlaxoSmithKline), which is now approved for use in persons aged ≥ 3 years, and Afluria (CSL Biotherapies), which is now approved for use in persons aged ≥ 6 months.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 23, 2010

School Health Professional Workshop



This event will be held from 3pm to 6pm at 133 Margaret Street, 2nd floor of the old courthouse building. Topics to include STIs, new tanning regulations, immunization updates and active surveillance. For more information, call 565-4848.

Friday, September 17, 2010

EXPLORE

Psychiatry Teaching Day

For registration information, contact Kate Chilton @ 564-3054 or visit www.plattsburghcas.com

RABIES CLINICS FOR DOGS, CATS & FERRETS

Free for Clinton County Residents
All clinics held 6 - 8:30pm

Tuesday, September 21st, Peru Fire Station

Thursday, September 23rd, Champlain Fire Station

Tuesday, September 28th, Chazy Fire Station

Thursday, September 30th, Morrisonville Fire Station

Tuesday, October 5th, Saranac Fire Station

For additional clinic dates and locations, visit www.clintonhealth.org.