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Sumter County Quarterly Epidemiology Report

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Inside this issue:

- Chagas Disease **1**
- Food Recalls **1**
- Around Florida **2**
- Flu Season **2**
- Disease Numbers **3**
- Epi Quiz **4**

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Chagas Disease

What is Chagas Disease?

Chagas disease, also known as American trypanosomiasis is caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*, which is transmitted to animals and people by insect vectors that are found only in the Americas. **Rare cases of Chagas disease have been acquired in the southern United States.**

It is estimated that as many as 8 million people in Mexico, Central America, and South America have Chagas disease as of 2013. Most people who have Chagas disease do not realize they are infected. Chagas disease has an acute and a chronic phase. If untreated, infection is lifelong.

How do people get Chagas disease?

People can become infected in various ways. In Chagas disease-endemic areas, the main way is through vectorborne transmission, specifically, triatomine “kissing” bugs. These blood-sucking bugs get infected by biting an infected animal or person. Once infected, the bugs pass *T. cruzi* parasites in their feces. **It is important to note that not all triatomine bugs are infected with Chagas disease.**

What are the signs and symptoms of Chagas disease?

Symptoms can include:

Fever, fatigue, body aches, headache, rash loss of appetite, diarrhea, and vomiting.

If you feel that you have found a kissing bug and would like more help in identifying it contact the IFAS Extension Office at (352) 793-2728.

For more information on Chagas Disease visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/>

Kissing Bug



Triatoma sanguisuga “Kissing bug”. Courtesy of CDC, 2015

NOT Kissing Bugs



Wheel bug. Courtesy of CDC, 2015

Assassin bug. Courtesy of CDC, 2015

Food Recalls

In the last 30 days the following food recalls were issued. More information can be found at, <http://www.floridahealth.gov/>

Brand Names	Food	Date of Recall	Health Risk
Thomas Produce	Cucumbers	1/5/2015	Salmonella
Homestat Farms of Dublin, OH	Organic Cut and Chia with Flax and Rye Flakes	12/19/2015	Salmonella

FDOH Sumter Epidemiology would like to thank all of our partners for their invaluable help during the 2015 reporting year. We would like to take this opportunity to remind our partners that the FDOH Sumter Epidemiology program can provide guidance and diagnostic testing, during certain situations. For more information on these services please contact us at **(352)569-3115 or (352) 569-3106**.

During the 2015 reporting year the Florida Department of Health in Sumter County :

- Investigated and reported **342** cases of infectious diseases
- Investigated **14** restaurant related foodborne com-

plaints involving **22** Sumter County Residents

- Investigated **6** outbreaks involving **87** individuals

Settings include:

- Skilled Care Centers
- Restaurants
- Pharmacies
- Assisted living facilities

Thank you again to all of our partners in these efforts.

Special thank you to:

- ◆ The Infection Control staff at Central Florida Health Alliance
- ◆ Promise Hospital
- ◆ Sumter County Fire & EMS

Flu Season

According to the Florida Department of Health's Flu Review, the 2015-2016 Flu season is off to a slow start. While flu activity has remained low, low activity early in the season is not predictive of the overall influenza season. The best way to protect yourself and those around you is to get vaccinated.

Who should get vaccinated?

It is recommended that everyone 6 months of age or older should get a flu shot every season especially people at a high risk for developing flu-related complications(http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/high_risk.htm).

When should I get vaccinated?

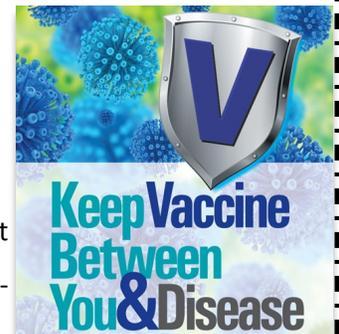
Ideally you should get vaccinated as soon as the seasonal flu vaccine becomes available. However, flu vaccination should continue throughout the flu season. As long as flu viruses are spreading, it's not too late to get vaccinated.

Why should I get vaccinated?

Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and extreme illness even in healthy people. Vaccination is the best way to reduce your chance of getting the seasonal flu and spreading it to others.

Where can I get vaccinated?

Consult with your private doctor, visit the link below, or call the health department at (352)569-3102 to get more information on how and where to get vaccinated. <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/flu-prevention/locate-a-flu-shot.html>



Florida Department of Health in Sumter County

Reportable Disease Count December, 2015



Disease Category	Sumter County				Florida			
	December		Cumulative (YTD)		December		Cumulative (YTD)	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
A. Vaccine Preventable Diseases								
Pertussis	-	-	1	3	38	25	345	719
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias								
Meningococcal Disease	-	-	-	1	3	2	24	52
C. Enteric Infections								
Campylobacteriosis	-	2	12	16	331	249	3638	3053
Escherichia Coli Shiga Toxin +	1	1	6	6	49	31	460	479
Salmonellosis	2	-	18	21	606	475	6418	6369
Vibriosis (All Reportable Species)	-	-	1	-	26	15	199	166
D. Viral Hepatitis								
Hepatitis A	-	-	-	1	23	12	125	107
Hepatitis B, Acute	-	-	3	2	60	40	535	408
Hepatitis B, Chronic	-	2	18	14	481	389	5484	4914
Hepatitis C, Acute	1	-	4	-	27	12	204	183
Hepatitis C, Chronic	20	23	233	196	2401	1792	27776	22412
Hepatitis +HBsAg in pregnant women	-	-	-	-	72	50	488	510
E. Vector Borne, Zoonoses								
Rabid Animals	-	-	-	-	7	14	84	94
Lyme Disease	-	-	4	3	39	30	294	170
Chikungunya	-	-	-	-	4	53	125	442
F. Others								
Creutzfeldt - Jakob Disease (CJD)	-	-	2	3	2	5	30	24
Legionellosis	-	-	1	2	28	26	321	286

~ Expected case numbers are calculated using total incidence rates of 2014 totals.

~ Expected rates are crude rates.

~ Incidence rate calculated using State of Florida est. mid-year population 2013 (U.S. Census Bureau)

~ Mid-Year population for Sumter County Based 2012 est. (U.S. Census Bureau).

~ Case totals based on total number of cases reported during calendar years.

EPI Quiz Question



What disease, beginning with just one index patient, went on to wipe out more than one third of the Fijian population in 1875?

(Answer on pg 4.)





[\(Click here to learn more\)](#)



MISSION :

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts.

VISION :

To be the *Healthiest State* in the Nation

VALUES (ICARE) :

Innovation: We search for creative solutions and manage resources wisely.

Collaboration: We use teamwork to achieve common goals & solve problems.

Accountability: We perform with integrity & respect.

Responsiveness: We achieve our mission by serving our customers & engaging our partners.

Excellence: We promote quality outcomes through learning & continuous performance improvement.



Epi Quiz Answer



What disease, beginning with just one index patient, went on to wipe out more than one third of the Fijian population in 1875?

Measles

It was December 1874 and King Cakobau recently signed a deed of cession giving Great Britain control of the archipelago. The former king along with 50-100 guests, including his wife, two sons and a chaplain, were invited for a state visit to Sydney, Australia.

While in Sydney the King and his wife were treated to the best of Sydney while their sons remained aboard the ship. During their return trip Cakobau's eldest son, Ratu Timoci, who had been sneaking off the ship at night, became ill. The ship's surgeon diagnosed Ratu as well as the chaplain with measles and immediately sent the men to an isolation tent on board the ship. Quarantine law at the time stated that "no ship was allowed into port with a quarantinable disease; and if there was such a disease on board, the ship had to fly the international symbol of quarantine, a yellow flag" (Garnett, 1999). For some unknown reason the yellow flag was never raised and the ship sailed back into Levuka harbor and all passengers including Ratu and the chaplain disembarked. In the coming days Ratu, still ill with measles, would visit with the Fijian's armed constabulary, and for

the first time ever all 69 chiefs of the Islands would come together for a meeting. This series of events along with routine travel and transportation between the islands exposed more and more of the population to the disease.

By the time word reached London and an official confirmation of the epidemic status of the disease had been declared, in June 1875, the damage had already been done. Approximately 40,000 people had died with virtually no place left untouched. As more Fijians succumbed to the disease, distrust for Great Britain's rule grew. With the Fijians never having seen an illness of this magnitude in the past, they began to draw the conclusion that the British were trying to destroy them and take over their land. This increased distrust caused the Fijians, in turn, to rebel. Queen Victoria was alarmed by the rate at which her new subjects were dying and launched an investigation into the epidemic and sent British Soldiers and armed Fijians to quiet the rebellion. A strict quarantine was later established helping bring to an end the 1875 measles epidemic in Fiji.

By: Brittany Becht, MPH

References: Garnett, C. (1999, November). Lesson for Modern Times: NLM History Lecture Examines "Death in the Cannibal Islands". The NIH Record, LI(23). Retrieved December 2015, from https://nihrecord.nih.gov/newsletters/11_16_99/story01.htm