Broward County Health Department

780 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315 Office: (954) 467-4700 Fax: (954) 467-4870 www.browardchd.org

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Broward County Health Department

EPI Examiner

A Monthly Epidemiology Report

FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2012

Epidemiology Program Office
Office: (954) 467-4700 #8
Confidential Fax: (954) 467-4870
www.browardchd.org/Services/DiseaseSurv.htm

BCHD Director
Paula Thaqi, M.D., M.P.H.

Communicable Disease Director
Akiva Turner, Ph.D., J.D., M.P.H.

Epidemiology Program Manager
Patrick H. Jenkins, M.P.H.
(954)467-4700 ext. 5575

Medical Epidemiologist
Steven Bowen, M.D., M.P.H.

Epidemiology Nurse Supervisor
Carmen H. Draughn, R.N., B.S.N.
(954)467-4700 ext. 5580

Surveillance Contacts:
Food and Waterborne Diseases
Patrick Jenkins, M.P.H. ext.5575

Epidemiology Data Requests
Lashawnda White, M.P.H.
(954)213-0744

Syndromic Surveillance
Patrick Jenkins, M.P.H. ext. 5575

Influenza Surveillance
Chantal Hall, M.P.H. ext.. 5576

HIV/AIDS
Psyche Doe, B.S. ext.5565

Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Arlette Joseph
(954) 414-8560 (954)LAST-STD

Tuberculosis
Kesner Accime ext. 5763

To report a disease or request Information call: (954)467-4700
Communicable Disease Ext. 5581
HIV/AIDS Ext. 5565
STD (954)414-8560
Tuberculosis Ext. 5763 or 5735
Epi Examiner Ext. 5578

Prepared by:
Lashawnda White, M.P.H.

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Summary of Disease Activity

Listeriosis and meningitis were greater than expected for the month of February (Table 2.). There was one case of listeriosis. Four cases of meningitis were reported which totals six through February. One case is the five year average for February. The cases were not outbreak related and all associated organisms differed. Patients were between the ages of 40 and 70 years old and were mostly male.

More on meningitis from the CDC:
Meningitis is a disease caused by the inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord known as the meninges. The inflammation is usually caused by an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis may develop in response to a number of causes, usually bacteria or viruses, but meningitis can also be caused by fungi, physical injury, cancer or certain drugs. Meningitis infection is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, headache, stiff neck and is often accompanied by nausea, vomiting, photophobia, or altered mental status. The severity of illness and the treatment for meningitis differ depending on the cause. Thus, it is important to know the specific cause of meningitis. For example, bacterial meningitis is usually more severe than viral, fungal, or parasitic meningitis. Although it can be very serious, bacterial meningitis can be treated with antibiotics that can prevent severe illness and reduce the spread of infection from person to person. There is no treatment for viral mengitis and fungal meningitis is treated with antifungal medications.

For more information on meningitis, visit the CDC website at http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html

Food Recalls

Table 1.

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
Michael Foods Inc.	Hard Cooked Eggs in Brine	2/1/12	Listeria monocytogenes
Link to recall: http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm289920.htm			
W & C International Import	Rely Sardine Anchovies & Dried Yellow Croaker	2/1/12	Clostidium Botulism risk
Link to recall: http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm290067.htm			

Source:http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/medicine/foodsurveillance/Recalls_Page.htm?appSession=568163385964609

Table 2 . Provisional Cases* of Selected Notifiable Disease, Broward County, Florida, February, 2012

	Broward County					Florida				
	February			Cumulative (YTD)		February			Cumulative (YTD)	
	2012	2011	Mean†	2012	2011	2012	2011	Mean†	2012	2011
A. Enteric Infections										
Campylobacteriosis	9	13	9.0	22	24	123	144	89.0	318	295
Cryptosporidiosis	1	3	2.0	2	8	37	32	28.0	69	67
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0.0	0	3	0	6	2.8	1	15
Escherichia Coli, Shiga-toxin producing**	0	1	0.6	1	1	11	6	5.2	23	14
Giardiasis	3	6	7.6	10	15	39	71	103.6	106	198
Listeriosis	1	0	0.0	1	0	3	0	1.0	5	6
Salmonellosis	29	14	20.0	53	26	223	173	201.8	497	410
Shigellosis	6	22	19.4	8	29	108	136	90.8	206	271
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias										
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	0	0.2	0	0	1	0	0.6	1	0
H. Influenzae (invasive)	1	0	1.4	3	4	21	18	20.0	38	44
Meningitis (bacterial, cryptococcal, mycotic)	4	1	1.4	6	2	14	14	15.8	35	33
Meningococcal Disease	1	0	0.4	1	1	5	3	5.8	10	6
Strepococcus Pneumoniae										
Drug resistant (invasive)	1	7	7.2	7	16	45	83	98.4	110	196
Drug susceptible (invasive)	8	10	8.2	16	20	62	91	87.8	127	206
Streptococcal Disease, Group A (Invasive)	2	1	2.4	3	4	15	27	26.2	33	59
C. Viral Hepatitis										
Hepatitis A	0	1	2.8	0	2	12	10	13.2	18	16
Hepatitis B +HBsAg in pregnant women	1	4	4.4	2	5	24	30	45.0	48	68
Hepatitis B, Acute	3	1	2.8	4	3	17	10	22.8	39	30
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	0	0.8	2	0	10	7	6.2	25	17
D. Vector Borne, Zoonoses										
Animal Rabies	0	0	0.0	1	0	10	9	12.0	19	12
Ciguatera	0	0	0.6	0	0	2	6	3.0	2	8
Dengue Fever	0	0	0.4	4	0	2	2	1.4	8	5
Lyme Disease	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	1	2.2	9	4
Malaria	2	1	1.2	5	2	4	8	5.2	13	15
E. Others										
Botulism-infant	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Brucellosis	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	1.0	1	1
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0	0.4	0	0	1	7	4.6	3	10
Hansens Disease (Leprosy)	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0	1
Legionellosis	0	0	0.6	1	1	7	16	12.0	25	30
Pertussis	0	0	0.4	0	0	18	30	23.2	55	54
Varicella	3	3	4.0	6	6	85	75	142.6	171	159
Vibrio cholerae Type-01	0	0	0.0	0	1	0	1	0.2	0	5
Vibrio Vulnificus	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0.2	0	1

* Confirmed and probable cases based on date of report as reported in Merlin. Incidence data for 2011 is provisional.

† Mean of the same month in the previous five years

** Includes *E. coli O157:H7; shiga-toxin positive, serogroup non-O157; and shiga-toxin positive, not serogrouped*

†† Includes neuroinvasive and non-neuroinvasive

Highlighted diseases are higher than expected for the month in Broward.

The Merlin system is Florida's state repository of reportable disease case reports, including automated notification of staff about individual cases of high priority diseases. Data is extracted using event date which is usually the date of onset of illness, and when that is unknown, event date may be date of lab report, or date of diagnosis.

Influenza Surveillance

Chantal Hall, MPH

The 2011-2012 Influenza Season

The 2011-2012 Influenza Season is underway. Nationwide influenza continues to be reported low. The state influenza activity is low in many of the monitoring systems. Two influenza outbreaks were reported to EPI COM during weeks 6 through 9. Low numbers of influenza specimens have tested positive for seasonal influenza AH3 strains by the state lab this flu season. All flu identified has been due to seasonal influenza strains. No specimens have tested positive for novel influenza in Florida. Viruses known to be currently circulating, potentially causing influenza-like illness, include adenovirus, rhinovirus, parainfluenza and RSV. RSV activity typically peaks in the months of November through January and is least active in summer. Broward influenza activity is mild.

Figure 1. ESSENCE ILI Visits, Broward, 2012

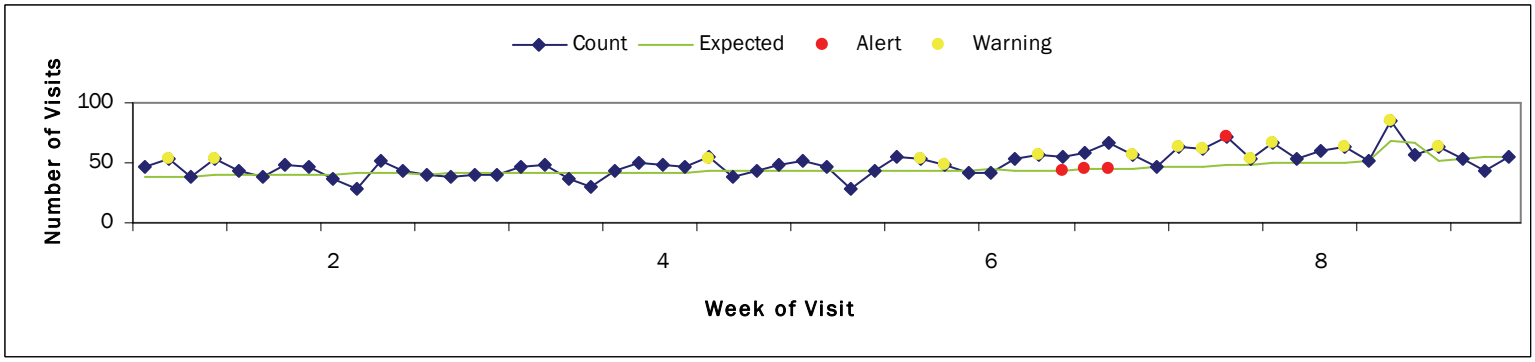


Figure 2. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2011-2012

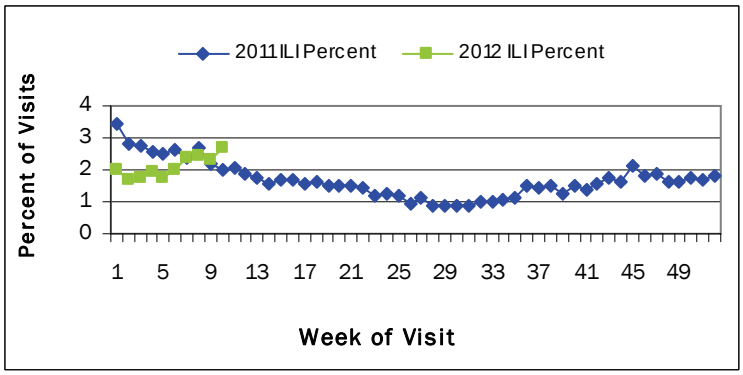
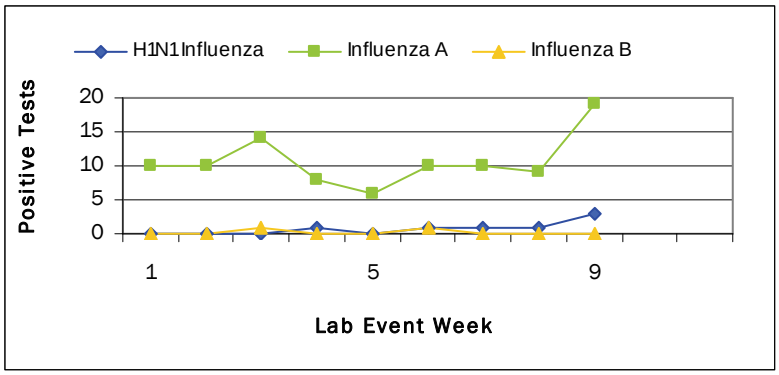


Figure 3. Broward Circulating Flu Types, 2012



Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data

The number of visits to the emergency department for influenza like illness (ILI) was slightly elevated for the month of February with several warnings and alerts (Fig. 1). The percentage of emergency department visits due to influenza like illness (ILI) was similar to last year with a slight increase in week 10 (Fig. 2). Influenza A continues to make up the majority of positive specimens circulating in Broward County. Broward had one influenza B specimen that tested positive with the bureau of laboratories (Fig. 3).

Influenza Prevention Recommendations

Broward County Health Department recommends that everyone take precautions to prevent the spread of influenza. The flu is a contagious disease, caused by the influenza virus, and spreads to others when infected persons cough, sneeze or talk. Common symptoms of the flu include: Fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (more common among children than adults). The flu vaccines have protected millions of people safely for decades. The CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine as the first and best way to protect against influenza. This recommendation is the same even during years when the vaccine composition (the viruses the vaccine protects against) remains unchanged from the previous season. **This fall, everyone 6 months and older is encouraged to get vaccinated against the flu even if they got vaccinated last season. 2011-2012 influenza vaccines are now available.**

Other recommendations include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick, keep sick children home and check with a health care provider, as needed.
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or other personal items.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, if possible.
- Avoid crowds and areas where people congregate and are likely to be sneezing and coughing.

For more flu information, visit: www.browardchd.org or http://cdc.gov/flu

Syndromic Surveillance

Patrick Jenkins, MPH

The Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community Based Epidemics (ESSENCE) was developed by Johns Hopkins University and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. It is a syndromic surveillance tool used to monitor potential bioterrorism threats and reportable disease. Chief complaint data is transmitted daily to the ESSENCE system from participating hospitals. BCHD monitors a total of 17 reporting hospital systems in Broward County. ESSENCE groups the chief compliant data into twelve syndrome groups, including: botulism-like, exposure, fever, gastrointestinal (GI), hemorrhagic, influenza-like-illness (ILI), neurological, rash, respiratory, shock/coma, injury, and other (1). ESSENCE creates automatic warnings or alerts for the monitoring of the twelve syndrome groups by comparing statistical differences in observed and predicted disease based on a 28-day average (1). Specialized queries have also been developed to monitor Florida state reportable diseases in Broward County. When an observed value is statistically higher at the $p<.05$ level, a yellow warning flag is generated.

Figure 4. ESSENCE Daily Emergency Department Visits, Broward, February, 2012

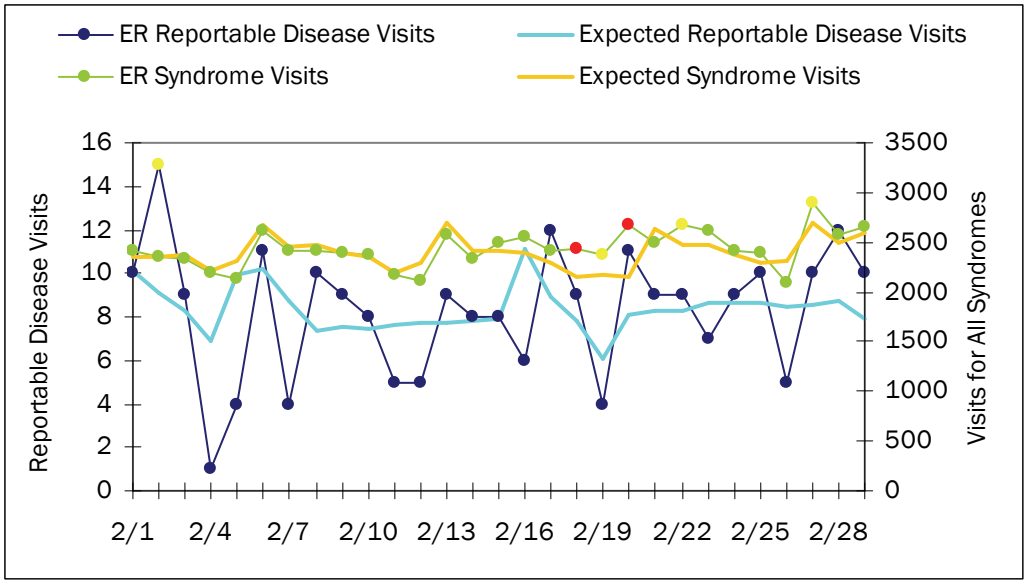


Figure 4. Syndromic visits were higher than expected on 6 days in January. There were 3 alerts and 2 warnings for syndromic visits. There was one warning in February for reportable diseases.

Table 3. ESSENCE Chief Complaint Alerts and Warnings for Reportable Disease and Chief Complaint Syndromes, February 2012

Disease	Alerts	Warnings	Syndrome	Alerts	Warnings
All Reportable disease Query	None	2nd	**Botulism-like illness**	None	18th,27th
Vaccine preventable diseases[1]	21st	None	**Exposure**	None	3rd,29th
Hepatitis A and B	None	24th,26th	**Fever**	16th,18th,19th,20th, 22nd,23rd,27th29th	1st,2nd,6th,15th,17th , 21st,24th, 25th,28th
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	3rd	20th	**Gastrointestinal illness**	29th	27th
Varicella (chicken pox)	21st – 23rd	14th,19th, 20th	**Hemorrhagic illness**	None	16th,24th
Vector Borne diseases	None	None	**Influenza-like illness (ILI)**	13th,14th,15th,20th, 27th	8th,12th, 16th,19th, 21st,22nd, 24th, 25th,29th
Dengue	None	None	**Injury**	None	1st,6th,7th, 18th,19th, 20th,29th
Encephalitis	None	None	**Neurological**	23rd,24th,29th	27th,28th
Malaria	None	None	**Rash**	None	None
Gastrointestinal illnesses	None	2nd	**Respiratory**	20th,27th	17th,18th, 21st–23rd,25th, 28th
General enterics[2]	None	2nd	**Shock/coma**	None	3rd,6th,15th
Vomit and diarrhea	9th,21st, 23rd,29th	None	**Other illness**	19th,20th	18th,22nd, 27th

1 Varicella, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio

2 Cryptosporidium, cyclospora, shigellosis, shigella, salmonellosis, salmonella, ciguatera, campylobacteriosis, cholera, E. coli, and vibrio

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Rick Scott
Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2012

Contact: Candy Sims, Public Information Officer
(954) 467-4784 – (954) 895-5745

MEDIA PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
Call for location and time

KICK BUTTS DAY IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

Public encouraged to "*Trade a Smoke Pack for a Health Pack*"

(BROWARD COUNTY, FL) – The Tobacco Prevention Program at the Broward County Health Department and Broward County SWAT Chapters (Student's Working Against Tobacco) will join Tobacco Free Florida in observing National Kick Butts Day on Wednesday, March 21, 2012. SWAT members will be stationed at several locations in Broward County to encourage smokers to "***Trade A Smoke Pack For A Health Pack***." Each Health Pack contains educational information for smoking cessation and items that encourage healthy eating and physical activity.

Picture courtesy of www.kickbuttsday.org

Kick Butts Day is a national day of advocacy empowering youth to take a stand against Big Tobacco and the marketing tactics it employs to push its products. SWAT members will target adults and youth to turn in a pack of cigarettes and in return, receive a Health Pack. Health Packs will be available while supplies last.

Tobacco Free Florida is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign that offers a number of free and convenient resources to help Floridians quit tobacco. Smokers and smokeless tobacco users interested in quitting are encouraged to call the Florida Quitline at 1-877-U-CAN-NOW to speak with a Quit Coach. To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida and the State's free quit smoking resources, visit www.tobaccofreeflorida.com.

Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) is a statewide youth organization designed to mobilize, educate and equip Florida youth to work against and de-glamorize Big Tobacco. SWAT was created in 1998 for youth to lead their peers to reduce teen smoking and to highlight the risk of tobacco use among youth. Florida youth named and designed the SWAT framework and the "Truth" marketing campaign. There are 25 SWAT chapters in Broward County – 20 in middle and high schools and 5 community based that actively educate their communities through participation in school Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings, community events, and presentations to local businesses and government officials.

For more information on the Tobacco Prevention Program at Broward County Health Department and Broward County SWAT activities call, (954) 213-0614.

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