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Monthly Report 762-3891

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A Monthly Epidemiology Report

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February Disease Summary

Confirmed and Probable cases were analyzed by date of event for this report (Table 1). Diseases were categorized as higher than expected using a two standard deviation threshold and as significantly higher than expected according to Pearson's chi-square test for fit of a distribution.

This month, drug resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* was again significantly higher than expected. Hepatitis A was also higher than expected according to the two standard deviation threshold.

Drug Resistant Streptococcal Pneumoniae

There were twice the number of drug resistant *Streptococcal pneumoniae* (DRSP) cases reported this month, than in the previous year and twice the average of the last five years. DRSP is also on the rise in neighboring Dade and Palm Beach counties. The numbers are higher this year in several counties throughout Florida. Cases increased 66% for the entire state of Florida, and similarly in the US. According to MMWR reports for February 2008 & 2009, Florida reported the majority of DRSP cases in the US this year and last year (69%). Excluding Florida's cases, the US had a 43% increase. In Broward, *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* infections tends to be higher in the late winter months and in early spring.

Hepatitis A

There were 5 Hepatitis A cases reported this month, which is twice the average of the last five years. Almost all the cases occurred in adults and in males.

Hepatitis A is a disease of the liver that is transmitted by ingesting infected fecal matter. Infectious persons can spread it by not washing their hands and preparing food or touching contact areas, and through oral-anal sexual contact. Parents and caregivers can spread it by not washing their hands after changing diapers. It causes acute disease rather than chronic infection. Symptoms include, fatigue, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, jaundice, and loss of appetite, although some people experience no symptoms at all. Symptoms can last from a couple of weeks to a few months in severe cases. There is no treatment for Hepatitis A. The Hepatitis A vaccination offers the best prevention from acquiring the disease. Frequent hand washing especially after restroom use, changing diapers and prior to eating food also aids prevention.