

The Infection Connection

LD LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY
Health Department
 www.ldchealth.org

Beware: Reports about bats on increase

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has reported an increased number of calls regarding bats this summer, and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department recently investigated a case of bats in an apartment complex.

Bats can carry diseases and rabies is perhaps the most well known disease associated with them.

Bats have small teeth that may leave marks not easily seen. Although many people know if they have been bitten by a bat, there are certain circumstances when a person might not be aware or able to tell if a bite has occurred. For example:

- If a person awakes to find a bat in the room
- If you find a bat in a room



State and local health departments have received an increased number of calls regarding bats.

with an unattended child

- If you see a bat near a person with a disability
- If a person is intoxicated

If the above occurs, individuals need to get immediate medical attention and call

the Health Department at 843-3060. When it cannot be ruled out that the bat is free from rabies and an exposure has occurred, a post-exposure prophylaxis can prevent infection.

LDCHD provides HIV testing, education in community

On July 1, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and Heartland Community Health Center began offering programs and services provided by the Douglas County AIDS Project, which closed its doors July 31.

The Health Department has assumed leadership of targeted HIV testing, education and prevention efforts for local, at-risk members. Heartland Community Health Center now provides Medical Case Management services for those with an HIV/AIDS



Aundrea Shafer, Health Promotion Specialist at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, will coordinate HIV testing and education in the community.

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Schools play key role in disease prevention

With the recent national occurrence of disease outbreaks such as mumps, pertussis and measles, the Health

Department is encouraging school districts



to consider strategies to increase vaccination rates among staff in daily contact with students and to maintain vaccination records on teachers.

Up-to-date immunizations of all teachers and students can help prevent spread of disease, and access to records can help speed up the investigation process. When exposure to a vaccine preventable disease is identified in a classroom, teachers and students without proof of vaccination or laboratory proof of immunity will be expected to isolate at home for a certain period of time, potentially three weeks or longer.

Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name	May 14	June 14	July 14	Total
Enteric	Campylobacteriosis	2	7	1	10
	Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	1	1
	Giardia	0	1	0	1
	Salmonellosis	0	0	2	2
	Shiga Toxin	1	0	1	2
General	Hep B, chronic	5	0	0	5
	Hep B, pregnancy	0	1	0	1
	Hepatitis C	8	4	1	13
	Strep A, invasive	0	0	1	1
	Strep pneumo., invasive	0	1	0	1
Vector	Ehrlichiosis	2	1	6	9
	Lyme Disease	0	2	1	3
	RMSF	3	4	3	10
Vaccine-preventable	Bacterial Meningitis	0	0	1	1
	Pertussis	0	1	6	7
	Varicella	0	3	1	4
STDs (tested at HD only)	Chlamydia	12	16	12	40
	Gonorrhea	4	1	0	5
	Syphilis	1	2	3	6

This report includes the number of cases investigated by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Case classifications include: Confirmed, probable and suspect.

Douglas County AIDS Project transfers services, programs

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diagnosis. There are about 130 cases of HIV/AIDS in Douglas, Franklin and Jefferson counties.

Douglas County AIDS Project was largely funded by two Kansas Department of Health and Environment grants, which have been transferred to the Health Department and Heartland. These transfers stem from medical advancements made in the treatment of HIV/AIDS during the past 15 years. Care for people living with HIV/AIDS is now similar to that of a chronic medical condition. To successfully and continually develop, it is now necessary for DCAP's programs

to operate within integrated health care settings.

The Health Department provides about 800 HIV tests annually as part of its sexually transmitted disease testing. With the additional grant funding, the Health Department also will provide HIV testing in the community, targeting at-risk populations. Aundrea Shafer, health promotion specialist, will be coordinating those efforts. Shafer previously worked at Positive Connections in Topeka as its prevention coordinator. Positive Connections is an agency similar to DCAP that serves residents of Shawnee County.

New Market Match program benefits food stamp recipients

Douglas County residents who receive SNAP (food stamp) benefits have a new opportunity to eat more healthy, local food. Both the Lawrence Farmers Market and Cottin's Farmers' Market are offering Market Match, a program that matches SNAP purchases dollar-for-dollar up to \$25 per day. For example, a family using \$25 of their SNAP benefits would receive \$50 in market tokens redeemable at vendor booths.

The Lawrence Farmers' Market is located on the 800 block of New Hampshire and operates Saturday mornings from 7-11 a.m. and Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. Cottin's Farmers' Market is located behind Cottin's Hardware Store at 19th and Massachusetts streets and is open Thursdays from 4-6:30 p.m.

If you would like informational postcards about Market Match to share with your patients, contact Leslie Queen at Douglas County at (785) 766-3415 or lqueen@douglas-county.com.



Douglas County community members celebrate opening day of the Market Match program at Cottin's Hardware & Rental. Pictured, from left, are Shelley Paul, of Harvesters, Chris Tilden, of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Leslie Queen, of Douglas County, Charlie Bryan, of the Health Department; and Nikki White, of LiveWell Lawrence.

Your HEALTH CONNECTION



Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

Calendar

* July 28 - Walkability audit of Barker Neighborhood, 8-8 p.m., Babcock Place, 17th and New Hampshire streets.
[Details](#)

Welcome to Health Connection, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department's new electronic newsletter!

This monthly newsletter will contain the latest news concerning public health and community events. It also will provide information about our programs and services, which include Community Health, Clinic Services, Environmental Health, Child

Sign up for our new Health Connection e-newsletter!

Health Connection is the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department's new electronic newsletter for the general public. The monthly newsletter will contain the latest news concerning public health and community events. It also will

include information about the Health Department's programs and services, which include Community Health, Clinic Services, Environmental Health, Child Care Licensing and Case Management for new families and seniors.

If you would like to receive the electronic newsletter, you can sign up on the front of the Health Department's website — ldchealth.org — or contact Communications Coordinator Karrey Britt at kbritt@ldchealth.org.