

The Infection

Connection

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY
Health Department
www.ldchealth.org

Chlamydia rates on rise in Douglas County

Chlamydia rates are increasing statewide and locally. Last year, Douglas County had its highest rate in six years, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

In 2012, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department provided 1,934 tests for chlamydia, and of those, 130 were positive. So far this year, there have been 99 positive tests with 23 in the first quarter, 31 in the second, and 45 in the third.

Sue McDanel, Family Planning nurse practitioner at the Health Department, urges health care providers to ask their patients about basic sexual history. "Don't assume anything," she said. "The older married adult may have an extramarital partner or partners. The adolescent, who is very active in school and extracurricular activities whose parent says he or she is not sexually active, may indeed be."

In addition to chlamydia rates, Mc-

Danel is concerned about the risk of microbial resistance to medications, especially for gonorrhea. "Gonorrhea is nearing drug resistance to all available medications with only one drug group showing good treatment response. This may leave us with a multi-drug resistant organism that we have to treat with several drugs to assure treatment effectiveness."

See Chlamydia on page 2



From left, Kaitlyn Johnson and her mother, Sharon Johnson, ask Amanda Kong questions about the Health Insurance Marketplace. Kong is an AmeriCorps member at the Health Department and a trained navigator.

Staff available to help answer questions, enroll residents in new Health Insurance Marketplace

The Health Department has three staff members available to help residents navigate the Health Insurance Marketplace. They are trained to help answer questions and help anyone enroll in an insurance plan.

There is no cost to receive assistance, and the Health Department has one Spanish interpreter available.

If you have a patient who needs help, have him or her contact the Health Department at 843-0721 or stop by the clinic at 200 Maine St. during clinic hours.

The Health Department has received at least 15 phone calls and 11 in-person visits, and the questions from residents have varied. One call came from a mother who was

See Staff on page 2

Flu vaccine offered in clinic, community

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is offering flu shots on a walk-in basis during clinic hours. No appointment is necessary. The only type of vaccine that the Health Department is offering is Trivalent.

The vaccine is \$25 for children ages 6 months to 3 years old and \$30 for anyone 3 years old and older.

The Health Department is offering several community flu shot clinics. They will be in:

- **Lecompton** — Oct. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., Lecompton United Methodist Church, 402 Elmore St., Lecompton.
- **Baldwin City** — Oct. 24, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Baldwin City Recreation, 705 High St., Baldwin City.
- **Eudora** — Oct. 29, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Eudora High School, 2203 Church St., Eudora.

See Flu shots on page 2

Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name	July 13	Aug. 13	Sept. 13	Total
Enteric	Campylobacteriosis	1	5	2	8
	E. coli- shiga toxin	1	1	1	3
	Giardia	0	1	0	1
	Salmonella	3	2	1	6
General	Hepatitis B, chronic	1	1	1	3
	Hepatitis C	4	4	9	17
Vector-borne	Ehrlichiosis	7	1	1	9
	Lyme disease	1	4	1	6
	RMSF	9	2	3	14
	Tularemia	1	0	1	2
Vaccine-preventable	Pertussis	4	0	4	8
	Varicella	0	2	1	3
STDs (tested at HD only)	Chlamydia	15	17	13	45
	Gonorrhea	3	2	3	8
	Syphilis	0	1	1	2

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

Staff help residents navigate Health Insurance Marketplace

Continued from page 1

looking for a more affordable health insurance plan for her daughter who has a pre-existing condition. Another person had no income and no health insurance and was looking at his options. Others have had questions about: when to enroll, costs, and whether their employers could sign up for a plan.

Frendida Zamora said the first person she talked to was outraged. "She was upset about the whole thing and didn't understand why she was being forced to do this." Zamora was able to calm the caller down by explaining the Marketplace. She said being a navigator is exciting and scary. "It will be a learning process. Everybody is going to be different and have different health needs," she said.

24-7 EPI hotline

To alert the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department to a reportable disease after hours, please use this number: **785-856-7305**.

Social media

For more information about the Health Department's programs and services, follow us on Twitter @LDCHHealth or "like" us on Facebook.

Chlamydia rates on rise

Continued from page 1

She advises providers to check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the latest treatment guidelines.

When it comes to STDs, the Health Department's primary objectives are:

- **To provide prevention education.** We provide one-on-one counseling along with presentations in the community. The department provides talks for particularly at-risk populations of adolescents.

- **To provide a low-cost resource for testing and treatment.** At the Health Department, a basic STD screening for a patient without symptoms includes testing for chlamydia and gonorrhea

(this is a combination test), syphilis and HIV.

During the visit, a focused exam is done to evaluate for lesions. The base fee for this visit is \$71. When a client is checked in for their visit, basic demographic and income information is requested. If income is provided, the client is placed on a sliding fee scale based on the stated income. If the client indicates they are unable to pay their fee, they are offered the option of setting up a payment plan.

The Health Department also bills third party payers such as Medicaid and private insurance.

Condoms are offered during visits and clients may qualify for them at a reduced cost. The base cost is \$4 per dozen.

Flu shots available at reduced cost

Continued from page 1

The Health Department participates in the Vaccine For Children's Program. Children who have KanCare, no insurance or insurance that does not cover immunizations can qualify for the program.

Children also qualify if they are Native American or Alaska Native. There is a \$20 administration fee.

The Health Department will receive 100 doses of flu vaccine specifically for uninsured adults. There is a \$20 administration fee.

Laughter is the best medicine

