

The Infection

 LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY
Health Department
www.ldchealth.org

Connection

Department sees increase in vector-borne diseases

Warm weather and an increase in vector-borne disease go hand in hand.

This year, however, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is seeing a higher than average number of these illnesses.

Since April, the department has investigated six cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) and six cases of Lyme disease. One confirmed case and one suspect case of tularemia also have been reported as well as one confirmed case of ehrlichiosis so



far in August.

Most vector-borne diseases in Kansas are transmitted through an infected tick or mosquito. Although great advances have been made in vaccines and chemoprophylactic drugs against vector-borne diseases (such as yellow fever and malaria), individuals should still use repellents and other measures against mosquitoes and ticks.

In many patients, the most noticeable sign of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme disease is a rash. In patients with RMSF,

the rash develops on the arms and legs. The rash can spread to the palms, soles and over the rest of the body.

Symptoms include: sudden onset of moderate to high fever (which can last two to three weeks), severe headache, muscle pain, nausea and vomiting.

RMSF is diagnosed based on a positive antibody test or by taking a biopsy of the skin where the rash occurs. A rash caused by Lyme disease often begins as a small red area that

See "Diseases" on page 2

Families urged to take advantage of reduced-rate varicella vaccine

Reduced-cost varicella vaccine is available at the Health Department for adolescents ages 10 through 18 in need of a first or second dose of the immunization.

While there is no fee for the vaccine, patients only pay a \$14 administration fee (the vaccine alone typically costs \$85).

See box at right for current school requirements.

Two doses of the vaccine for all ages is currently recommended by the American Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

School shot requirements, recommendations for 2010-11

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP): Five doses required. Four doses acceptable if fourth dose given on or after the child's fourth birthday.

A booster dose of Tdap is required at grade 7 if it's been more than two years since previous dose of Td.

Poliomyelitis (IPV/OPV): Four doses required. Three doses acceptable if third dose is given on or after the age 4.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): Two doses required.

Hepatitis B: Three doses required through grade 10.

Varicella (chicken pox): Two doses required for Kindergarten and first grade; one dose required grades 2-10 unless history of varicella disease documented by a licensed physician. Two doses are currently recommended by the ACIP for all ages.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib): Three doses required for children under age 5 enrolled in early childhood programs. Total doses needed are dependent on the type of vaccine and the age of the child when doses given.

Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV): Four doses required for children under age 5 in early childhood programs. Total doses needed are dependent on the

age of the child when doses given.

Hepatitis A: Two doses required for children under age 5 in early childhood programs.

In addition to the immunizations required for school entry listed above, the 2010 ACIP recommendations also include the following for school children:

Meningococcal (MCV4): One dose recommended at age 11; not required for school entry.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV): Three doses recommended for females at age 11 and provisionally recommended for males at age 11; not required for school entry.

Influenza: Yearly vaccination recommended for all ages older than 6 months of age; not required for school entry.



LEFT: Nurse Peggy Gabler vaccinates Paola Torres, 10.

A reminder about reportable diseases

There are more than 70 diseases that are reportable in accordance with Kansas law. Help the Health Department monitor disease incidence in the community.

Ens named Director of Clinic Services

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has named Nurse **Kim Ens** Director of Clinic Services. Ens, who has worked at the Health Department for the past 17 years, succeeds Barbara Schmitker, who retired after 26 years of service in June. Ens' duties include: overseeing day-to-day clinic operations, supervising the agency's 10 nurses, developing protocols and planning.

- Communicable Disease investigations.
- Immunizations
- Family Planning/Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Maternal Child Health
- Well Child

and

• Communicable Disease investigations.



Kim Ens

Diseases carried by ticks higher than normal this season

swollen and painful eyes and a sore throat. Other symptoms may include: Sudden fever, chills, headaches, diarrhea, muscle aches, joint pain, or bulls eye. Symptoms are similar to influenza. If a rash is not present, however, Lyme disease can be difficult to diagnose since its symptoms resemble many other diseases. To help diagnose these cases, doctors can have a patient's blood tested for Lyme bacteria antibodies.

Tularemia is carried by rodents, rabbits and hares. It's transmitted by infected ticks, deerflies or other insects as well as through handling infected animal carcasses, eating or drinking contaminated water or breathing in the Francisella tularensis bacteria. Symptoms are dependent on how the person contracted the bacteria.

These symptoms include: skin or mouth ulcers, swollen or painful lymph glands,

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For more information on these or other vector-borne diseases, please contact the Health Department and ask for a Communicable Disease nurse at (785)843-3060.

Laughter is the best medicine



Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name				Enteric	General	Vector	Vaccine-preventable diseases	STDs (tested at HD only)
	April 10	May 10	June 10	July 10					
Campylobacter	1	0	4	3	8				
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	1	0	2				
E. coli	1	0	0	0	1				
Giardiasis	2	0	1	2	5				
Salmonella	2	1	1	1	5				
Hepatitis A	6	2	1	1	10				
Hepatitis B	0	2	3	1	6				
Hepatitis C	9	3	2	5	19				
Strep pneumo. invasive	3	1	1	2	7				
H1N1 (incl. cases confirmed by KDHE and those deemed not a case)	2	3	2	1	8				
Ehrlichiosis	0	0	0	1	1				
Lyme disease	4	0	3	2	9				
RMSF	2	1	1	6	10				
Tularemia	0	0	2	0	2				
HIB	1	0	0	0	1				
Mumps	1	0	0	0	1				
Pertussis	6	0	0	2	8				
Varicella	1	1	1	1	4				
Gonorrhea	6	4	7	10	27				
Chlamydia	14	11	15	13	53				

This report includes the number of cases investigated by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Case classifications include: Confirmed, probable, suspect and those determined to not be a case.