

# infectionconnection

A publication of the LDCHD Communicable Disease program

## Sexually transmitted diseases increasing

Rates of gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis are once again on the rise, nationally and locally.

Syphilis cases have rebounded since 2000 when syphilis was on the verge of elimination in the United States. During 2005-2014, the number of primary and secondary syphilis cases reported each year in the United States increased from 8,724 to 19,999.

In Kansas, the number of primary and secondary syphilis cases reported between 2005 and 2014 increased from 19 to 60.

The majority of syphilis cases in the past few years have been in younger adult men with male sexual partners but some heterosexual transmission is also occurring. This is true both nationally and locally. Be alert to sexual histories of risk and be suspicious of adults

See STDs on page 2

### DOUGLAS COUNTY CASES

	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Early Syphilis
2012	550	89	6
2013	588	96	5
2014	620	92	16
2015	653	83	11

## KU zoologist offers expertise on mosquito prevention

Christopher Rogers, an invertebrate zoologist with Kansas Biological Survey at the University of Kansas, visited the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department in May to educate staff about mosquito prevalence and behavior.



Rogers sets mosquito traps weekly, enumerates and identifies mosquito species and trends this data by site.

See Local on page 2



Aedes aegypti



Aedes albopictus

These maps represent CDC's best estimate of the potential range of Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus in the United States. Maps are not meant to represent risk for spread of disease.

**Douglas County Disease Report**

Disease category	Disease name	Mar. 2016	April 2016	May 2016	Total
Enteric	Salmonella	3	2	3	8
	Shigella	16	0	1	17
	STEC	1	0	1	2
General	Hepatitis A	0	1	0	1
	Hepatitis B, chronic	1	0	0	1
	Hepatitis C, past or present	3	8	9	20
	Legionellosis	1	0	0	1
	Strep Pneumo, Invasive	1	0	0	1
	Strep A, Invasive	0	0	1	1
Vaccine preventable	Varicella	0	0	3	3
Vector	Ehrlichiosis	0	0	1	1
	Lyme	0	0	1	1
	Tularemia	0	0	2	2
STDs (tested at HD only)	Chlamydia	8	12	12	32
	Gonorrhea	1	4	2	7
	Syphilis	2	3	6	11

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

## Local mosquito expert provides seasonal outlook, prevention tips

Continued from page 1

Health Department staff asked Rogers to specifically talk about the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes that can carry Zika virus. These mosquitoes originated in Africa and Asia respectively, but are now found in tropical and subtropical regions throughout the world. Both have the potential to harbor Zika virus, yellow fever, dengue fever and chikungunya. The complete distribution of *Aedes* mosquitoes in Kansas is not yet known, but is being studied by Rogers and his team. Rogers said there are more than 50 species of mosquitoes in Kansas.

In the U.S., cases of Zika, dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever in humans are very low. However, they have been associated with travel to endemic regions. The potential for spread from infected human to local mosquitoes exists; therefore, it is important to take protective measures.

It is important for people to dump standing water in their yards and avoid mosquito-infested areas as much as possible. Wearing long sleeves and pants in highly infested areas and using EPA-registered insect repellents such as Deet, picaridin, icaridin, or more natural products such as oil of lemon eucalyptus are good prevention strategies.

Zika virus also can be spread through sexual transmission from an infected person and there are real risks to pregnant women and their babies.

To learn more about Zika virus, visit [cdc.gov/zika](http://cdc.gov/zika) and to listen to teleconferences visit: [cdc.gov/zika/public-health-partners/zap-teleconferences.html](http://cdc.gov/zika/public-health-partners/zap-teleconferences.html).

## New staff work in disease, preparedness

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has hired two employees — Mary Beverly and Sonia Jordan — who work in the Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness programs.



Mary Beverly



Sonia Jordan

Beverly is Director of Performance Management and oversees the programs. She has worked as an epidemiologist, environmental health specialist and emergency planner for the Florida Department of Health for the past 17 years. Sonia is Communicable Disease/Preparedness Coordinator and has nine years of experience in the field of public health preparedness, previously working with the Medical Reserve Corps and Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

## STDs on rise in Douglas County

Continued from page 1

presenting with lesions and rashes.

Bicillin LA is in limited supply, and it is advised that its use be reserved for the treatment of pregnant women with syphilis diagnosis or exposure. Others should be treated with the recommended regimens of Doxycycline. In using the longer alternate therapy, it is important to do the advised follow-up testing at 6 and 12 months to assure treatment effectiveness as adherence to multi-dose oral regimens is often inconsistent, risking treatment failure.