

# infectionconnection

A publication of the LDCHD Communicable Disease program

## New screening guidelines for syphilis

Kansas recently identified the first case of congenital syphilis since 2009.

Early identification, diagnosis and treatment of syphilis in pregnant women is vital to the prevention of congenital syphilis, which can occur at any time during pregnancy and any stage of the disease.

Kansas law requires serologic screening of syphilis in pregnant women during the first prenatal visit. However, in light of the recent congenital syphilis case, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recommends enhanced serologic

testing, which consists of two additional screenings during the third trimester: Once at 28-32 weeks gestation and again at delivery.

Douglas County continues to have higher rates of syphilis infections than in previous years.

Throughout Kansas, there have been outbreaks of syphilis related to gay men and intravenous drug users. Therefore, it is important to discuss sexual behavior and drug use with patients. Consider routine screening for patients with reported risk

factors. If a client presents with lesions or rashes, consider syphilis testing.

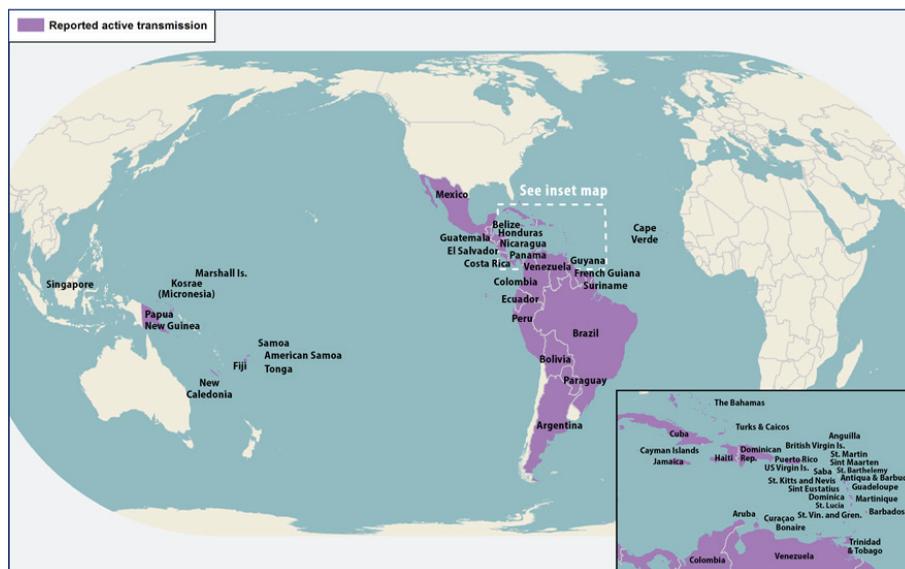
Syphilis is a notifiable disease under Kansas state law and all positive blood tests, diagnoses (including presumptive), and treatment should be reported to KDHE. Reporting to KDHE can be done by calling 1-877-427-7317, using a reporting form available on the KDHE website ([www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov)), or faxing information to KDHE (1-877-427-7318). You also can notify the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

## Be mindful of Zika virus during holiday travel season

Many people like to travel to warmer areas during holiday and winter breaks — areas in which Zika may still be present.

Here are a few reminders:

- Pregnant women should be advised against travel to Zika-affected areas.
- Travelers should be cautioned to avoid mosquito bites by using a Deet-containing bug repellent while traveling.
- Couples who wish to conceive should be counseled on the risks associated with travel to areas with Zika transmission.
- If a patient presents with symptoms of an arboviral disease, remember to ask about their travel history.



Countries and territories with travel notices reporting active mosquito transmission of Zika virus.

Source: CDC

## Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016	Oct. 2016	Total
Enteric	Campylobacteriosis	2	4	3	9
	Giardia	0	1	3	4
	Salmonella	2	0	1	3
	STEC	1	1	1	3
General	Hepatitis B, chronic	0	1	0	1
	Hepatitis C, past or present	8	6	5	19
	Strep Pneumo, Invasive	0	2	0	2
Vaccine preventable	Varicella	1	2	0	3
Vector	RMSF	4	0	1	5
STDs (tested at HD only)	Chlamydia	13	8	14	35
	Gonorrhea	5	5	5	15
	Syphilis	0	4	1	5

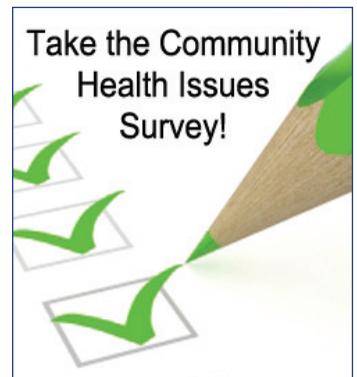
This report includes the number of cases investigated by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Case classifications include: confirmed, probable and suspect.

## Community Health Issues Survey to help guide policies, programs

If you are a Douglas County resident, the Health Department encourages you to take the Community Health Issues Survey at <http://ldchealth.org/yourhealth!>

Jobs, mental health, child care, hunger, recreation, tobacco use, housing and education are among the topics in the Health Issues Survey.

The survey is being conducted in partnership with the University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development and a Steering Committee of 28 Douglas County leaders. The survey helps set health priorities for Douglas County.



**Take the Community Health Issues Survey!**

[ldchealth.org/yourhealth](http://ldchealth.org/yourhealth)

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY Health Department KU SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT The University of Kansas

## Health Department receives reports of whooping cough cases

Fall means back to school, changing leaves and cooler weather. It also means a return of respiratory infections like pertussis.

Due to the highly infectious nature of pertussis, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department will immediately begin contact investigations for all suspect, probable or confirmed cases of pertussis, even without laboratory confirmation.

Probable and suspect cases are those that may have an epidemiological link to a pertussis case or that are compatible with a potential pertussis infection based on symptoms and risk. The Health Department will look for the following symptoms when evaluating pertussis case status: paroxysms of cough, inspiratory whoop, post-tussive vomiting or apnea.



During the past few weeks, the Health Department has investigated five suspect cases and one probable case of pertussis.

Neither infection nor immunization can provide lifelong protection, so even among immunized contacts infection can still occur. Among unimmunized contacts, the

secondary attack rate is especially high at 70-100 percent.

With this in mind, the Health Department recommends chemoprophylaxis (a macrolide such as azithromycin) for all high-risk and household contacts of someone with diagnosed or suspected pertussis. High-risk contacts include infants younger than 12 months old, pregnant women in the third trimester, immunocompromised individuals and contacts who have close contact with high-risk individuals.

As a reminder, unvaccinated individuals in at-risk contact settings are required by state statute to either get the vaccination within 24 hours of notification or remain at home for a period of 21 days.