

# infectionconnection

A publication of the LDCHD Epidemiology program

## Zika virus topic of lunch-and-learn event

The Health Department will host a lunch-and-learn program, “Zika & You: What You Need to Know to Fight the Bite,” for our providers and members of the community from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 25 in the auditorium of the Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. Lunch will be provided, and no registration is required.



Rogers

The program will feature a presentation D. Christopher Rogers, a research associate for the Kansas Biological Survey at the University of



Kansas. Rogers monitors mosquitoes for the State of Kansas.

After Rogers’ presentation, there will be a brief panel discussion with an opportunity for community members to ask questions. In addition to Rogers, panelists will include:

- Amie Worthington, arboviral disease surveillance coordinator for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

- Dr. Jennifer Schrimsher, an infectious disease specialist for Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

This will be a great training opportunity for providers and community members. Staff can gain knowledge regarding proper testing and laboratory protocols related to Zika, while community members will learn what they can do to protect themselves and their families from mosquitoes.

## Reports of tick-borne illnesses up in Douglas County



The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has received an increase in reported and investigated cases of tick-borne illnesses, such as Lyme, Ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF).

Tick-borne cases also are being reported earlier than in previous years.

So far this year, the Health Department has had two cases of Ehrlichiosis, four cases of RMSF and one case of Lyme. Last year at this time, there was one case of Ehrlichiosis and one case of RMSF.

Tick-borne illness can cause a variety of symptoms, including fever, headache, myalgia,

joint pain and rash. Laboratory findings such as anemia, thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, and elevated transaminase also may be indicators of illness caused by ticks. Additionally, about 90 percent of Lyme cases will develop the erythema migrans rash at the site of the tick bite.

If you suspect any patient of having a tick-borne illness, it is recommended to begin treatment immediately to avoid serious complications or death. It is not recommended to wait for lab results. Recommended treatment is doxycycline and it is most effective when given within the first five days of illness.

Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name	Feb	March	April	Total
Enteric	Campylobacteriosis	1	0	1	3
	Giardia	0	0	1	1
General	Hepatitis A	0	1	0	1
	Hepatitis B, chronic	0	0	3	3
	Hepatitis C	8	11	12	31
	Strep Pneumo, Invasive	0	2	0	2
Vaccine preventable	Pertussis	1	0	0	1
	Varicella	0	1	1	2
	Mumps	10	2	2	14
Vector	RMSF	0	1	0	1
STDs (tested at HD only)	Chlamydia	19	16	15	50
	Gonorrhea	7	11	5	23
	Syphilis	4	5	2	11

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

## Health Department continues to investigate mumps cases

The Health Department continues to receive reports from providers of suspected cases of mumps in the community. Douglas County has had 19 confirmed or probable mumps cases since December 2016. The most recent cases were confirmed as cases on April 26. All confirmed cases have been associated with the University of Kansas.

Persons with mumps are believed to be infectious two days prior to onset of parotid swelling and up to five days following onset of parotitis. Recommending isolation to all suspected mumps cases is vital for prevention of transmission in Douglas County.

If you suspect a patient has mumps or unexplained parotitis, call the Kansas Department of Health and Environment epidemiological hotline at 1-877-427-7317 to request approval for mumps testing. Current recommendations are to collect a buccal swab if the onset of parotid swelling is within five days. Serology is only recommended for persons without the MMR vaccination or if testing is completed after five days of parotitis onset.

## Patients with diarrhea need to avoid pools

Please remind patients with diarrhea to stay out of pools, splash pads and water parks until their symptoms have completely resolved.

Recreational water illnesses are caused by germs spread by swallowing or having contact with contaminated water in swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, interactive fountains, lakes or rivers.

Contrary to popular belief, chlorine and other disinfectants do not kill germs instantly. While most germs are killed within minutes, *Cryptosporidium* can live for days. Before they are killed, these germs can cause illnesses, such as gastrointestinal, skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic, and wound infections. The most commonly reported recreational



water illness is diarrhea caused by germs such as *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, *Shigella*, *Norovirus* and *E. coli*. Swallowing just a mouthful of water that contains these germs can make you sick.

Let's do our part to promote healthy and safe swimming this summer.

## CDC: New guidelines for Hepatitis C testing

Across the nation, there has been an increase in Hepatitis C among young people.

In Kansas and Douglas County, Hepatitis C is the No. 1 reportable infectious disease aside from sexually-transmitted diseases.

Testing recommendations have recently changed for Hepatitis C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends screening adults born from 1945 through 1965 without prior ascertainment of HCV risk factors.