

infectionconnection

A publication of the LDCHD Epidemiology program

Tracking trends in local influenza rates

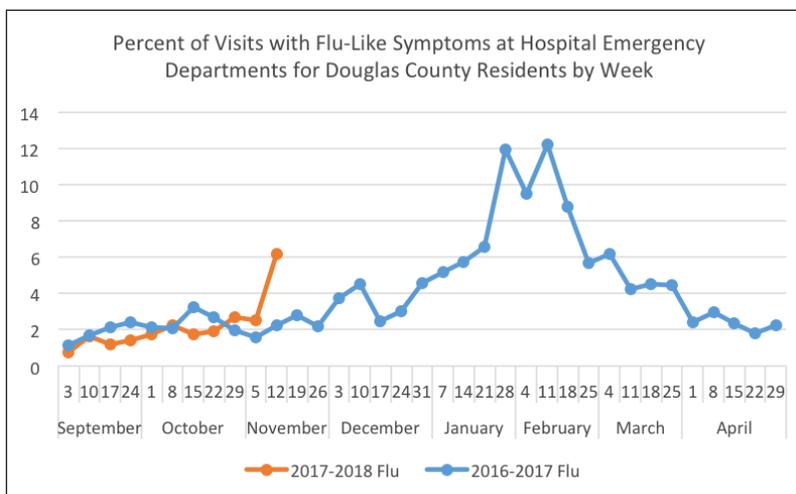
Influenza season has officially begun in Douglas County. The Health Department is now able to access resources and data to track trends related to influenza-like illness (ILI) and pneumonia/influenza mortality for Douglas County and Northeast Kansas. To view the data, which is updated weekly, visit the flu surveillance page at www.ldchealth.org/flu.

Many CDC recommendations for flu, such as when to laboratory test or prescribe antivirals, are dependent on whether flu activity is high for the community or not.

Influenza recommendations for the 2017-2018 influenza season from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Disease (AAP COID) include:

- Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) is not

See federal agencies on page 2



The percentage of Douglas County residents with influenza-like illness complaints at any emergency department in Kansas.

STD rates increasing at alarming rate locally, nationally

According to the CDC, more than 2 million cases of the three nationally-reported STDs – chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis – were reported in the United States in 2016, the highest number ever.

Recently, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment alerted Kansas providers to be on the lookout for syphilis cases. Kansas had 300 cases of early syphilis reported during 2016, a 52 percent increase from 2014.

Please visit, http://www.kdheks.gov/sti_hiv/index.htm for a short video from CDC outlining three key actions health care providers can take to help reverse rising syphilis rates.

At risk behaviors include both MSM, particularly young men and IV drug use. If syphilis is a concern HIV, chlamydia and gonorrhea testing should also be considered.

Gonorrhea in Kansas 2015-2017

	CY 2015	CY 2016	2017 (Jan.-June)
Douglas County Cases	83	123	121
Douglas County Rates	71/100,000	104/100,000	103.8/100,000
Kansas Cases	2,542	3,362	2,127
Kansas Rates	87.5/100,000	115.5/100,000	49.6/100,000

Gonorrhea rates in Douglas County as well as in the state have been on the rise in the past few years.

Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
Enteric	Campylobacteriosis	3	2	0	5
	Giardia	0	2	0	2
	Salmonella	2	2	2	6
	Shigella	3	1	0	4
	STEC	2	1	0	3
General	Hepatitis B, acute	1	0	0	1
	Hepatitis B, chronic	1	0	0	1
	Hepatitis C, chronic	4	7	8	19
	Legionellosis	0	1	0	1
	Strep Pneumo, Invasive	1	0	0	1
	Strep A, Invasive	1	0	0	1
	Hemophilus Influenza, invasive	0	0	1	1
Vaccine preventable	Pertussis	5	2	0	7
	Mumps	1	1	0	2
Vector	Lyme	1	0	1	2
	Tularemia	0	1	0	1
* STDs (tested at HD only)	Chlamydia	20	17	30	67
	Gonorrhea	7	6	16	29
	Syphilis	1	1	0	2

Report includes number of cases investigated by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Case classifications include: confirmed, probable and suspect. * Positives tested at Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

New state recommendations for blood lead investigations

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has changed its recommendations for investigating cases of elevated blood lead. The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department will now investigate any case of elevated blood lead, child or adult, whose level exceeds 5.0 micrograms per deciliter, and provide education about diet and cleaning. Recent studies seem to underline devastating effects of lead, including a decrease in IQ for every 5.0 µg/dL level increase and lower rates of fertility, which is partially why the investigation and testing guidelines have become stricter.

For adults who have a level of 5.0 µg/dL or higher, the Health Department will recommend a lead screening through a health care provider for any child in the household.

For children with elevated levels of lead, the actions taken by LDCHD will depend on the lead level. For lower levels, there will be a phone interview to try to determine exposure and then recommended retesting within 1-3 months. For higher levels, there will be a phone interview and possibly an in-home interview with recommended retesting within as soon as two weeks. For levels higher than 45.0 µg/dL, LDCHD will recommend treatment at the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at Children’s Mercy Hospital. While no level of lead in blood is considered safe, the goal is for the child to have two tests under 5.0 µg/dL within 10 weeks of each other.

Federal agencies offer new influenza guidelines

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recommended again for the 2017-2018 season.

- Egg allergies do not increase risk of anaphylactic reaction from an inactivated vaccine. Patients with egg allergies can be given the flu shot. If the reaction is severe, the patient should be observed by a health care professional following the immunization.

- Amantadine (Symmetrel) and Rimantadine (Flumadine) antivirals are not recommended for influenza treatment for the

2017-2018 season.

- Antiviral treatment within 48 hours of symptom onset has a significant effect on reducing influenza morbidity and mortality. However, recent evidence supports a positive effect, although less prominent, when given after 48 hours, too.

- Antiviral treatment is recommended for: hospitalized patients, high-risk patients, patients with severe/progressive influenza, and patients with high-risk contacts in the same household.

Notice: Yellow Fever vaccine unavailable

Due to a national shortage, yellow fever vaccine is unavailable at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

Clients should contact Passport Health (1-877-358-8648) in Overland Park if they need the vaccine.