

HEALTH MATTERS

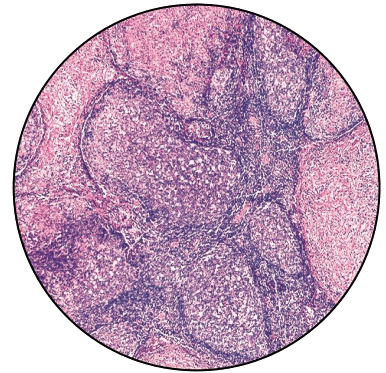
Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Newsletter from Davis County Health Department

Disease Matters

Syphilis in Pregnant Women

Background

Davis County Health Department (DCHD) has recently received several reports of syphilis in pregnant women. Appropriately treating pregnant women who test positive for syphilis is crucial to prevent the spread of congenital syphilis to the fetus, which can cause permanent damage. Continue reading for information about recommended treatment for syphilis in pregnant women and what role the health department can play in these cases.



Screening and Treatment During Pregnancy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all women be screened for syphilis early in pregnancy. Pregnant women with reactive treponemal screening tests should have additional quantitative nontreponemal testing, because titers are critical for monitoring treatment response. When syphilis is diagnosed during the second half of pregnancy, management should include a sonographic fetal evaluation for congenital syphilis. However, this evaluations should not delay treatment. All women who have syphilis should also be offered testing for HIV infection.

Penicillin G is the only known effective antimicrobial for preventing maternal transmission to the fetus and treating fetal infection. The current regimen recommended by CDC is that pregnant women should be treated with the penicillin regimen appropriate for their stage of infection.

Health Department Role

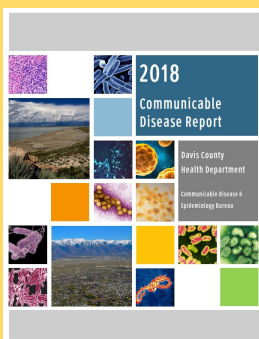
All positive syphilis tests (whether the patient is pregnant or not) should be reported to the local health jurisdiction in which the patient resides within three days of receiving results.

Although DCHD Communicable Disease staff is happy to consult with providers on individual cases, DCHD always refers patients to the diagnosing provider for treatment.

For additional information on screening, diagnosing, and treating patients with syphilis during pregnancy, you can find CDC's full guidelines here: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/syphilis-pregnancy.htm>. To consult with a DCHD nurse regarding a case, please call 801-525-5200.

New Annual Report Available Online

The 2018 Communicable Disease Report is now available online at <https://bit.ly/2GJbFAn>. This report summarizes the infectious disease burden of Davis County during 2018.



Seasonal Matters

Salmonella in Backyard Chickens

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), since the year 2000, 76 *Salmonella* outbreaks have been linked to live poultry. This includes over 5,000 illnesses and nearly a thousand hospitalizations.

As the weather is getting warmer, remind your patients with backyard poultry to use safe handling practices such as washing their hands after handling the animals, maintaining a clean coop, collecting eggs often, and cooking the eggs thoroughly. See the following CDC webpage for additional tips:

<https://bit.ly/2okm5v2>.



Number Matters

Selected Notifiable Diseases, 2019 & 2018

	2019	2018	% Increase or Decrease Year-to-Date
	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date (Total)	
Campylobacteriosis	10	10 (46)	0% →
Chlamydia	267	312 (1157)	14% ↓
Gonorrhea	53	62 (223)	15% ↓
Hepatitis A	1	0 (6)	100% ↑
Hepatitis B, acute & chronic	7	9 (24)	22% ↓
Hepatitis C, acute & chronic	29	31 (119)	6% ↓
Mumps	2	1 (3)	100% ↑
Measles	0	0 (0)	—
Meningococcal disease	0	0 (0)	—
Pertussis	1	9 (39)	89% ↓
Salmonellosis	5	9 (40)	44% ↓
Shiga-toxin producing <i>E. coli</i>	3	2 (18)	50% ↑
Shigellosis	3	2 (4)	50% ↑
Syphilis, all stages	9	14 (35)	36% ↓
Tuberculosis, active disease	0	0 (0)	—
Tuberculosis, latent infection	16	24 (87)	33% ↓

Staff Matters

We are excited to welcome a **Jessica Cardall** as our new communicable disease health educator. She will be helping DCHD implement a sexual education curriculum at the Clearfield Job Corps as well as addressing other health education needs.



Calendar Matters

April: STI Awareness Month

April 1 - 7: National Public Health Week

April 7: World Health Day

April 26 - May 3: National Infant Immunization Week

May 5: Hand Hygiene Day

May 12: Mother's Day

May 12 - 18: National Women's Health Week

May 14: Board of Health Meeting

May 28: Memorial Day

June 10 - 16 : National Men's Health Week

June 16: Father's Day

June 27: National HIV Testing Day