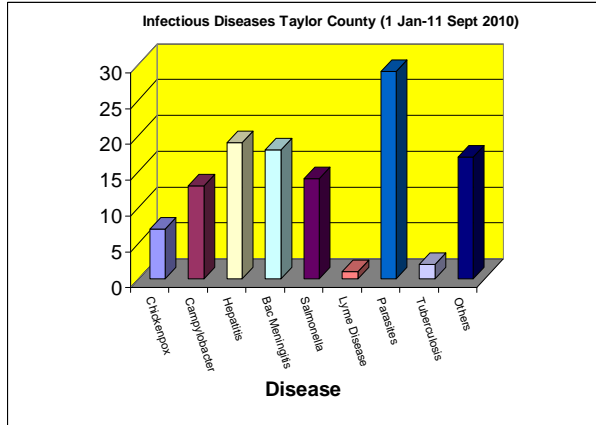


Infectious Diseases

The diseases we report include all of the notifiable conditions. The complete listing of notifiable conditions is located on our city website:

http://www.abilenetx.com/Health/documents/NotifiableConditionsexpJan2011_000.pdf

The graph below depicts data collected from infectious disease reports showing which diseases were reported and how many times during the year.



Disease Surveillance & Reporting

Public health surveillance involves systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of data regarding adverse health conditions. Surveillance involves investigating individual cases as well as epidemics. Only residents of Taylor County are counted in our surveillance.

In public health surveillance data are used to monitor disease trends; detect, respond to, and study new disease threats, outbreaks, or epidemics; identify risk factors; and plan, implement, and assess intervention and prevention services.

Most case reports must include the patient's name, date of birth, sex, race/ethnicity, city of residence, date of onset, physician's name, and method of diagnosis. Surveillance data are obtained from laboratory reports and case investigation forms. Social and demographic information is collected to determine patterns of disease in the population, identify case contacts, and target control measures. Reports should be given to the local public health department.

Surveillance is subject to limitations which affect many data collections systems. Underreporting is a ubiquitous problem, but its extent differs among diseases.

Cryptosporidiosis (cont')

Crypto can be spread:

- By putting something in your mouth or accidentally swallowing something that has come in contact with the stool of a person or animal infected with Crypto.
- By swallowing recreational water contaminated with Crypto.
- By eating uncooked food contaminated with Crypto.
- By touching your mouth with contaminated hands. By contact with skin around an infected person's anus. Crypto can be very contagious. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially after using the toilet, after changing diapers, and before eating or preparing food.

Note:

You may not be protected in a chlorinated recreational water venue (e.g., swimming pool, water park, splash pad, spray park) because Crypto is chlorine-resistant and can live for days in chlorine-treated water. Do not swim in recreational water (pools, hot tubs, lakes, rivers, oceans, etc.) if you have Crypto and for at least 2 weeks after the diarrhea stops. You can pass Crypto in your stool and contaminate water for several weeks after your symptoms have ended. Avoid sexual practices that might result in oral exposure to stool (e.g., oral-anal contact).

Children with diarrhea should be excluded from child care settings until the diarrhea has stopped.

Nitazoxanide has been FDA-approved for treatment of diarrhea caused by *Cryptosporidium* in people with healthy immune systems and is available by prescription.

Flu Season is Upon Us !!

The Fall means influenza will be returning in force and one of our main components in our arsenal of prevention is the flu shot. As medical providers we should recommend to the public that everyone should get a flu shot. This year's trivalent vaccine contains the influenza A types H1N1 (Swine flu), H3N2, and an influenza B type strain. We are now in the process of recruiting volunteer sentinels from the medical community for influenza surveillance.

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Epidemiology Report



Volume 1, Issue 4
30 Sep 2010



Cryptosporidiosis

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District
P.O. Box 2818, 850 N. 6th St.
Abilene, Texas 79604-2818

Check our websites for public health, epidemiology,
and preparedness information:

www.abilenepublichealth.org
www.abilenetx.com/Health/epidemiology.htm

Wayne R. Rose, Epidemiologist, MPA, BA, AA, AAS

Ph: 325.676.6355, Cell: 325.370.0823,
Fax: 325.676.6358
Email: wayne.rose@abilenetx.com

Statewide Number for Reporting Infectious
Diseases:
800-705-8868

Cryptosporidiosis



Cryptosporidium parasites exiting their cyst into the small intestine.

Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrheal disease caused by a microscopic parasite, *Cryptosporidium*, that can live in the intestine of humans and animals and is passed in the stool of an infected person or animal. Both the disease and the parasite are also known as "Crypto." The parasite is protected by an outer shell that allows it to survive outside the body for long periods of time and makes it very resistant to chlorine-based disinfectants. During the past 2 decades, Crypto has become recognized as one of the most common causes of waterborne disease (recreational water and drinking water) in humans in the United States. The parasite is found in every region of the United States and throughout the world. The most common symptom of cryptosporidiosis is watery diarrhea. Other symptoms include: Stomach cramps or pain, dehydration, nausea, vomiting, fever, and weight loss. Some people with Crypto will have no symptoms at all. Crypto infections could possibly affect many areas of the digestive tract or the respiratory tract. Symptoms of cryptosporidiosis generally begin 2 to 10 days (average 7 days) after becoming infected with the parasite. In persons with healthy immune systems, symptoms usually last about 1 to 2 weeks. The symptoms may go in cycles in which you may seem to get better for a few days, then feel worse before the illness ends. Millions of Crypto parasites can be released in a bowel movement from an infected human or animal. Crypto may be found in soil, food, water, or surfaces that have been contaminated with the feces from infected humans or animals. Crypto is not spread by contact with blood. (continued)

CBRNE

CBRN is an initialism for **chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear**. It is commonly used worldwide to refer to incidents or weapons in which any of these four hazards have presented themselves. The term **CBRN** is a replacement for the cold war term **NBC** (nuclear, biological, and chemical), which has replaced the term **ABC** (atomic, biological, and chemical) that was used in the fifties. The addition of **R** for **radiological** is a consequence of the "new" threat of a radiological weapon. Since the start of the new millennium, a new term - **CBRNE** - was introduced as a replacement term for **CBRN**. The **E** in this term represents the enhanced explosives threat.

CBRNE weapons/agents are often referred to as weapons of mass destruction (WMD). However, this is not entirely correct. Although CBRNE agents often cause mass destruction, this is not necessarily the case. Terrorist use of CBRNE agents may cause a limited number of casualties, but a large terrorizing and disruption of society. Terrorist use of CBRNE agents, intended to cause terror instead of mass casualties, is therefore often referred to as weapons of mass disruption. A CBRNE incident differs from a hazardous material incident in both effect scope and in intent. CBRNE incidents are responded to under the assumption that they are deliberate, malicious acts with the intention to kill, sicken, and/or disrupt society.

SMART-MRC

The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing volunteers.

The Support and Medical Alert Response Team (SMART) is the local MRC and participates in community awareness activities such as mass prophylaxis, vaccination clinics, and emergency scenarios as needed.

SMART - MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Community members, non-health professionals, can fill key support positions as well.

If you are interested in volunteering for your local SMART - MRC unit please contact us for an application.

Charlotte Lambert
325.676.6356

<http://smartmrc.com/>



Public Health News

CDC Investigates A Nationwide Increase of *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) Infections.

Between May 1 to August 31, 2010, approximately 1,469 reported illnesses were likely to be associated with this outbreak. FDA testing identified *Salmonella* in egg farm environmental samples. Epidemiologic investigations conducted by public health officials in 10 states since April, have identified 26 restaurants or event clusters where more than one ill person had the outbreak strain. Data from the investigations suggest that shell eggs are a likely source of infections in many of these restaurants or event clusters. Preliminary information indicates that Wright County Egg, in Galt, Iowa was an egg supplier in 15 of these 26 restaurants or event clusters. To date, no new restaurant or event clusters have been reported to CDC. A formal traceback was conducted by state partners in California, Colorado, and Minnesota, in collaboration with FDA and CDC, to find a common source of shell eggs. Wright County Egg in Iowa was found as the common source of the shell eggs associated with three of the clusters. Through additional traceback and FDA investigational findings, Hillandale Farms of Iowa, Inc. was identified as another potential source of contaminated shell eggs contributing to this outbreak. The FDA is nearing completion of initial investigations at both of these firms in Iowa.

Recent Podcasts From The CDC

Go to <http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/> to listen to or download on your computer these podcasts for reliable health and safety information:

- Public Health and Homelessness
- Tips to Reduce Your Risk of Getting a *Salmonella* Infection from Dry Pet Food
- Tips to Reduce Your Risk of *Salmonella* from Eggs
- Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings 1 PSA
- Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill PSA
- Helicobacter pylori and Peptic Ulcers
- The Obesity Epidemic - What Can Be Done?
- CDC Disease Detective Camp
- Oil or Tar Exposure
- Fill Up with Folic Acid