

# BATS AND RABIES

In 2007, 77 people in Eaton and Barry Counties received treatment for rabies after exposure to a bat. In half of the incidents, treatment was given because the bat was not available for testing. If the bat is not tested for rabies, then it is assumed to have rabies.

Exposure to a bat means that you cannot be certain that a bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure did not occur. An exposure applies to persons who wake to find a bat in the room or a bat in a room with an unattended child, mentally disabled person, or intoxicated person.

If exposed to a bat capture it for testing for rabies. To capture a bat you need leather work gloves (put them on), a small box or coffee can, a piece of cardboard, and tape. When the bat lands, while wearing gloves, place the box/can over it. Slide the cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside. Tape the cardboard to the container securely with no air holes. If you need help capturing a bat, contact animal control or the local police. Take the bat to a vet to be euthanized. Then take the dead bat to Animal Control (in Eaton County) or the Health Department (Barry County). The bat should be refrigerated, but not frozen, with the head intact. Freezing the bat will make the bat un-testable.

In 2007 over 10% of bats tested were positive for rabies. There were six bats in Barry County and eleven bats in Eaton County that were rabid.



## Barry-Eaton District Health Department

330 W. Woodlawn Ave.  
Hastings Michigan 49058  
269-945-9516

1033 Health Care Drive  
Charlotte Michigan 48813  
517-543-2430  
517485-7110

For questions regarding this newsletter, contact Janet Graham at  
(517) 541-2641

Barry-Eaton District Health Department shall continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health through organized programs including prevention and control of environmental health hazards; prevention and control of disease; prevention and control of health problems of particularly vulnerable population groups; development of health care facilities and health services delivery systems; and regulation of health care facilities and health services delivery systems to the extent provided by law.

## CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

In 2008 year to date, cryptosporidium is the most common of the reportable "enteric" pathogens. Cryptosporidia infect humans and many vertebrate species including dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, fish and poultry. The major symptom in humans is diarrhea, which may be profuse and watery. Asymptomatic infections are common. The route of transmission is fecal-oral, which includes person-to-person, animal-to-person, waterborne, and foodborne transmission. Outbreaks have been associated with day care centers, drinking water, recreational use of water including swimming pools and lakes, and consumption of contaminated beverages. Because of the association with water, there is the potential for cryptosporidia to contaminate private water wells. Therefore the Environmental Health Division investigates factors associated with cryptosporidium that may be linked to a private well or even a swimming pool. Water cannot be tested for cryptosporidium so it is difficult to be certain that a well with a problem is the source of infection.

In the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet), there is a 44% increase in reported cryptosporidium infection in 2007 compared with 2004-2006. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest this might reflect an increase in diagnostic testing stimulated by licensing of a new treatment (nitazoxanide).

## VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENTS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently updated many Vaccine Information Statements (VIS). The most recent updates include meningococcal vaccine on 01/28/2008; hepatitis B on 07/18/2007; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP) on 05/17/2007; human papillomavirus (HPV) on 02/02/2007; and varicella on 01/10/2007. Influenza VIS are updated yearly and typically become available each July or August.

You may obtain updated copies of the VIS by clicking the "VIS" link in the "Other" section after you log-in to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) or by going online to [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) and selecting "Vaccine Information Statements - VIS" in the education section. If you choose to access VIS from an online source, please use the sources listed here. VIS from these sources have disclosure information regarding use of the MCIR that is not on VIS obtained from the CDC website. You may also contact your local health department to obtain bulk copies of some VIS.

## REFERENCES COMMONLY USED AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The reference that probably gets the most use at the Health Department is a paperback: Heymann DL. Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, 18<sup>th</sup> edition, Washington, DC. American Public Health Association 2004. It costs \$33.00.





## CD LINK

A quarterly publication linking health care providers  
with current local public health information

### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Approximately 19 million new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) occur every year in the United States - and almost half of these are among young people aged 15 to 24. At least one in four teenage girls nationwide have a sexually transmitted illness.

STIs such as chlamydia and gonorrhea are major causes of infertility among women. In Barry and Eaton counties, chlamydia is the most frequently reported of the reportable communicable diseases.

There are many effective ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat STIs. STI screening and early diagnosis is vital to prevent serious health consequences and increased transmission. Screening is particularly important since many STIs often have no signs or symptoms. Annual screening of all sexually active women under the age of 26 for chlamydia is recommended, as is screening of older women with risk factors (e.g., those who have a new sex partner or multiple sex partners). Testing for chlamydia and gonorrhea involves submitting a urine sample to the lab. It is no longer necessary to do a pelvic exam or a swab for a sample.

The Barry Eaton District Health Department offers confidential, low cost (\$12.00) counseling, testing and treatment for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Prior to testing, the client and STI counselor discuss the client's risk factors for acquiring STIs, and what the client may do to reduce risk in the future. Condoms reduce risk for acquiring STIs. The Health Department has low-cost male and female condoms available based on ability to pay. Appointments usually last approximately 30 minutes. Test results may be given by telephone or mail. Results are generally available two weeks after testing.

Persons who test positive for chlamydia or gonorrhea receive free medications for the infections at the Health Department. Their sexual partners may also be treated at no cost for the medication. Partners must visit the Health Department for treatment.

STI counseling, testing and treatment is available to individuals 13 years of age and older. Minors do not need parental or guardian consent for counseling, testing or treatment. Persons requesting HIV/AIDS testing are given contact information for agencies providing free testing.

STI counseling, testing, and treatment is by appointment only. For the Charlotte office, call 517-541-2630 for an appointment or more information. The Health Department is located at 1033 Health Care Drive. For the Hastings office, call 269-945-9516. The Health Department is located at 330 West Woodlawn.

Two sexually transmitted infections are preventable with vaccines.

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) causes most cases of cancer of the cervix. The CDC recommends that girls and women between the ages of 11 and 26 years be vaccinated against HPV to reduce their risk for cancer of the cervix. HPV vaccine does not change the recommendation for periodic Pap tests.

- Hepatitis B may be transmitted sexually. In addition to causing liver disease, hepatitis B infection may lead to cancer of the liver. A series of 3 vaccines provides protection against acquiring hepatitis B.

For more information about HPV and hepatitis B vaccines, call the immunization clinic at 517-541-2660 in Charlotte, or 269-945-9516 in Hastings. HPV and hepatitis B vaccines are available at no cost for individuals without insurance or whose insurance does not cover the cost of vaccine. While the vaccine is available at no cost, a \$12.00 administration fee is applied. The administration fee is based on ability to pay and may be waived.

More information about sexually transmitted illnesses, also called sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), is available at [www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std).

Summary of Reportable Diseases for Barry and Eaton Counties

|                        | First Qtr<br>2008 | Fourth Qtr<br>2007 | Total<br>2007 | Total<br>2006 |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Campylobacter          | 2                 | 7                  | 17            | 22            |
| Chickenpox             | 7                 | 23                 | 136           | 109           |
| Chlamydia              | 93                | 102                | 369           | 356           |
| Coccidioidomycosis     | 0                 | 0                  | 1             | 1             |
| Cryptococcus           | 0                 | 0                  | 0             | 2             |
| Cryptosporidiosis      | 3                 | 2                  | 11            | 5             |
| E Coli Unspecified     | 1                 | 0                  | 1             | 1             |
| E Coli Not 0157:H7     | 0                 | 1                  | 1             | 0             |
| E Coli 0157:H7         | 0                 | 3                  | 3             | 2             |
| Encephalitis           | 0                 | 0                  | 0             | 1             |
| Flu-like Illness       | 3191              | unavailable        | unavailable   | 3911          |
| Giardiasis             | 5                 | 2                  | 17            | 19            |
| Gonorrhea              | 19                | 28                 | 83            | 101           |
| Hepatitis A            | 0                 | 0                  | 0             | 1             |
| Hepatitis B Acute      | 0                 | 1                  | 5             | 3             |
| Hepatitis B Chronic    | 3                 | 3                  | 15            | 13            |
| Hepatitis C Acute      | 0                 | 0                  | 0             | 0             |
| Hepatitis C Chronic    | 14                | 19                 | 88            | 92            |
| Histoplasmosis         | 0                 | 0                  | 2             | 3             |
| HIV / AIDS             | 7                 | 5                  | 20            | 11            |
| Kawasaki               | 2                 | 0                  | 2             | 0             |
| Legionellosis          | 0                 | 0                  | 2             | 2             |
| Listeriosis            | 0                 | 0                  | 1             | 0             |
| Lyme Disease           | 0                 | 0                  | 0             | 1             |
| Meningitis, Aseptic    | 2                 | 5                  | 14            | 14            |
| Meningitis, Bacterial  | 5                 | 0                  | 4             | 4             |
| Pertussis              | 0                 | 0                  | 2             | 3             |
| Salmonellosis          | 3                 | 8                  | 28            | 25            |
| Shigellosis            | 1                 | 0                  | 0             | 0             |
| Strep Invasive Group A | 0                 | 0                  | 2             | 2             |
| Strep pneumoniae       | 1                 | 4                  | 13            | 10            |
| Syphilis               | 2                 | 5                  | 11            | 9             |
| Tuberculosis           | 2                 | 1                  | 1             | 0             |
| West Nile Virus        | 0                 | 0                  | 0             | 1             |
| Yersinia enteritis     | 0                 | 1                  | 1             | 0             |
| Animal Exposures       | 84                | 106                | 540           | 463           |
| Rabies PET Recommended | 8                 | 6                  | 90            | 31            |

The communicable disease numbers represent the number of confirmed cases (except for chickenpox and pertussis, which includes confirmed and probable cases).

Effective with the first quarter of 2008, strep pneumoniae in persons older than 5 years of age will be counted as bacterial meningitis.

The tuberculosis report for the fourth quarter of 2007 was in bone in a Barry County resident. The two reports for the first quarter of 2008 are a pulmonary case in an Eaton County resident and a renal case in a Barry County resident.

To report communicable disease in Barry or Eaton County, call Janet Graham RN at 517-541-2641. Or, you may fax the report to 517-541-2666.