



# Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



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**Pinellas County Health Department**

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**Epi Watch** is a monthly newsletter from the Pinellas County Health Department. For more information, or to add your e-mail address to the distribution list, please contact the Editor.

Additional information and resources on tuberculosis may be found by visiting:

Pinellas County Health Department Website:

<http://www.pinellashealth.com/index.asp>

Bureau of TB and Refugee Health Website:

[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/tb/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/tb/)

*"The reason for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on a disease is to control that disease. Collection and analysis should not be allowed to consume resources if action does not follow."*

*Foege, W.H. et al. (1976). Int. J of Epidemiology, 5:29-37.*

To report diseases by

**phone call:**

(727) 824-6932

To report diseases by **fax**

(other than HIV/AIDS) use:

(727) 820-4270

## Tuberculosis

**Robyn Pasto, MPH**

Each year on March 24<sup>th</sup>, World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is recognized and is designed to build public awareness that TB remains an epidemic in much of the world. TB is regarded as one of the world's deadliest diseases; an estimated 1.7 million people die from TB each year and the worldwide number of new cases -- more than 9 million -- is higher than at any other time in history. Up to a third of the world's population is infected with the bacterium that causes TB, but only a small percentage of infected individuals ever develop the disease. Studies show that people with substance abuse problems, those who are poor and those who live in hard-to-reach communities are more prone to the disease.

Tuberculosis was once rare in developed countries. However, HIV infections drove up the number of TB cases across the world in the late 1980s because the immune suppression caused by HIV can make a person far more susceptible to TB. In the United States, cases of TB increased by 20% between 1985 and 1992 due to factors such as the HIV epidemic, increases in TB cases among foreign-born persons, outbreaks in congregate settings, reduction of services resulting from TB funding cuts, and the development of Multi-Drug Resistant TB.

In 2010, Florida reported 835 *new* cases of tuberculosis, 33 of which were in Pinellas County. Since January 1 2011, three *new confirmed* cases have been identified in Pinellas.

The Pinellas County Health Department is committed to serving our community by continuing to provide high quality TB services to our clients. Our staff is able to communicate in different languages to facilitate activities that include Directly Observed Therapy (DOT), a treatment delivery protocol which assures that clients with TB disease complete an approved regimen of TB medications. Ensuring that patients complete a prescribed course of appropriate antibiotic therapy helps prevent the development of antibiotic resistance, another concern.

We treat patients and perform extensive investigations of those who have come into contact with persons with TB. We counsel and interview any person who has active TB or who is reasonably suspected of having TB or reasonably suspected of having been exposed to an active case.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM MEDICAL PROVIDERS:

Is it a Florida law that the state lab is the only lab allowed to be used for TB testing?

There is no state law requiring the use of the state lab exclusively although it provides more diagnostic information than in any other one place. The state lab performs all TB testing including MTD, PCR, DNA Probes, and Hain.

We are a hospital. What else should we do when we test to rule-out TB? •The Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) induration millimeter measurement must be documented •Collect a series of three sputum specimens 8-24 hours apart • Obtain *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Direct Test, MTD (aka NAA).

What is the "gold standard" in TB? The "gold standard" refers to the only definitive method for diagnosis for TB which is the identification of *M. tuberculosis* in culture.



**World TB Day is recognized annually on March 24th to commemorate the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had identified *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis.**

# Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2011 February	2011 Year to date	2010 Year to date	2010 Total
AIDS	10	18	16	129
Animal Rabies	1	1		
Arboviral Illness (Human):				1
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	6	12	5	37
Chlamydia	280	588	592	3843
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)				
Cryptosporidiosis	3	6	4	24
Cyclosporiasis	1	1		4
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)				
Giardiasis		2	4	44
Gonorrhea	85	188	201	1329
<i>H. influenzae</i> :		1	2	11
Invasive Disease				
Hansen's Disease				1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				2
A				
B	2	2		8
C	1	3	2	11
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	3	4	8	26
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				230
B	13	22	30	
C	111	252	234	1498
HIV	22	32	28	215
Lead Poisoning: Children < 6 years:	1	2	1	3
Legionellosis	2	2		12
Listeriosis	1	1		1
Lyme Disease		1		9
Malaria		1		2
Meningitis:			1	10
Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic				
Meningococcal Disease			1	4
Mercury Poisoning				2
Mumps				1
Pertussis		1	1	10
Rabies, possible exposure	5	5	4	94
Salmonellosis	8	20	15	258
Shigellosis	9	20	2	47
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A			1	6
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	1	3	2	16
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)	2	3	4	15
Syphilis:				121
Total	7	19	18	
Infectious (P and S)	4	12	4	57
Early Latent	3	4	10	28
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis )		3	4	36
Tuberculosis	2	3	4	33
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections				12

Provisional cases reported by the Pinellas County Health Department. Blank cells indicate no cases reported. For a complete list of reportable diseases and guidelines for reporting, please visit: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/index.html)