



CHICKAHOMINY HEALTH NEWS

NEWSWORTHY

NATION/STATE

Rabies vaccine update

Currently, both types of rabies vaccine are now available for post-exposure prophylaxis [sanofi pasteur still requires a password]. However, providers are encouraged to continue reviewing each incident on a case-by-case basis with the health department. Please call with any questions regarding this issue.

Cat food recall (Salmonella)

A recall of a limited number of bags of Special Kitty® Gourmet Blend Dry Cat Food sold at Wal-Mart stores was issued this week by Mars Petcare US, due to the potential risk of Salmonella contamination. The cat food was distributed to 15 states, including VA. The recall was issued due to a positive Salmonella test result during product sampling. The recalled product specifics include:

- Best if Used By Date: 8/11/09
- Best if Used By Date Location: Back of bag
- Production Lot Code: 50 XXXX X
- UPC Code:
- 3.5lb Special Kitty® Gourmet Blend - 81131 17546
- 7lb Special Kitty® Gourmet Blend - 81131 17547
- 18lb Special Kitty® Gourmet Blend - 81131 17548

The recalled product should not be sold or fed to pets. Pet owners are advised to dispose of the product and return the empty bag to the store of purchase for a full refund. At this time there have been no complaints or reports of illness due to consumption or handling of the product. Salmonella infection in pets range from no symptoms (can be carriers), to lethargy, diarrhea (may be bloody), fever, vomiting, decreased appetite, and abdominal pain. Pets with these symptoms who consumed the recalled product should be evaluated by their veterinarians. In general, please use safe food-handling to avoid pet owner illness.

Contact Us

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URL: www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/Chickahominy/

SPOTLIGHT: SHIGELLOSIS

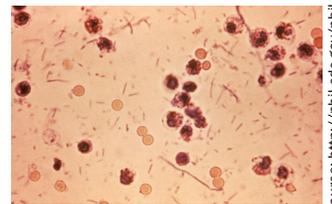
Shigellosis, simply, is the bacterial infection of Shigella that primarily affects the gastrointestinal tract in humans during the summer and early autumn. Two species exist in the eastern United States, *Shigella sonnei*, and *S. flexneri*; the former is more commonly seen in the United States.

Symptoms of shigellosis include mild to severe watery diarrhea with fever, stomach cramps, headache, and spots of blood in stool. These may appear 1-3 days after exposure of which is usually consumption of undercooked food, but can be found in water or spread by person-to-person via the fecal-oral route. However, some infections do not lead to symptoms. Antibiotic

treatment may shorten both the duration of symptoms and the passing of bacteria in the stool.

Shigellosis is a highly infectious disease, with low infective doses measuring only a fraction of what other gastrointestinal illnesses such as Salmonella and Campylobacter infections take to yield effect. Shigellosis is less prevalent than Salmonellosis or Campylobacteriosis, however. In 2006, there were 120 cases of Shigellosis compared to 1089 Salmonellosis and 669 Campylobacteriosis cases reported across the state of Virginia. This fall, the Richmond area has seen more Shigellosis cases of sporadic nature hit its residents this year relative to the previous two years to this point.

According to the Food Code of Virginia [12 VAC 5-421], Shigella is one of four conditions that require a foodhandler to be excluded from food preparation activities until stools are negative (Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli*, Hepatitis A, Salmonella Typhi [a.k.a. typhoid fever], and are the others). The health departments have dedicated Food Safety specialists to ensure this regulation is enforced, to protect the public's health, whereby extensive monitoring is done.



Source: <http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/details.asp>

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

What we are seeing in Chickahominy:

Sept '08 Reported Diseases

4 Salmonellosis cases (not linked, ages 12-81)

5 Giardiasis cases (2 linked, ages 6-50)

1 Varicella infection in a 9-year old male

1 Ehrlichiosis case in a 62-year old female

5 MRSA, invasive infections (ages 22-58)

Helpful information from the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)

(taken from 10/20/08 and 10/27/08 newsletters)

IAC has recently posted a new and important resource for healthcare professionals. Titled "Sample Vaccine Policy Statement--Ready for you to adapt for your practice," this piece gives professionals a template for creating a clear way to communicate a medical practice's strong support for childhood vaccination to the parents of their patients.

The Sample Vaccine Policy Statement is based on a statement developed by the clinicians at All Star Pediatrics, Lionville, PA. IAC has reformatted it and posted it on the IAC website as an MS Word document that can be

downloaded and edited for your practice's use in developing its own policy.

IAC is grateful to All Star Pediatrics for its dedication to immunization, hard work in developing a policy statement, and generosity in making it available for other clinicians to use and adapt.

To access the statement in MS Word format, go to:

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2067.doc>

The statement is also available in PDF format at

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2067.pdf>



Merck will not be able to return the Hib vaccine to the US market until mid-2009. Originally, it was planned for end of 2008.