



# CHICKAHOMINY HEALTH NEWS

## NEWSWORTHY

### NATION/STATE

#### National Public Health Week

The focus this year is 'Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance'. Please visit the website ([www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org)) for more info.



#### National Infant Immunization Week

April 19-26

Later this month we will be promoting the importance of protecting infants from diseases such as measles, mumps, pertussis, and chickenpox. Please visit the website for the latest Childhood Immunization Scheduler and more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niw/default.htm>.

#### VDH Zoonotic Newsletter

The Office of Epidemiology's Division of Environmental Epidemiology has recently published an initial newsletter for animal-related diseases. The newsletter covers rabies, West Nile Virus. You can access the newsletter and information through this link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/dee/otherzoonosis/>

### Contact Us

#### Chickahominy Health District

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#### District Director

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Emergency (after hrs): 866-531-3068

URL: [www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/Chickahominy/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/Chickahominy/)

## SPOTLIGHT: MEASLES

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Advisory regarding an increase of imported measles cases to the United States during the first quarter of this year. This is alarming, considering the relatively few number of indigenous cases seen each year. The CDC reported 24 indigenous and 31 imported cases in 2006. Forty-two (42) total cases were reported last year across the country. Measles is no longer endemic in the US, but the virus is found in many other parts of the world with an estimated 30 million cases annually.

A major, ongoing investigation in Arizona was initiated in February 2008 for several confirmed and suspect cases of measles. The

outbreak was linked to travel to Switzerland. Earlier, an outbreak occurred in San Diego following a trip to Switzerland (no connection in US, but same genotype). All cases mentioned above were unvaccinated. And somewhat locally, an unvaccinated Northern Virginia toddler developed measles symptoms after returning from the family trip to India.

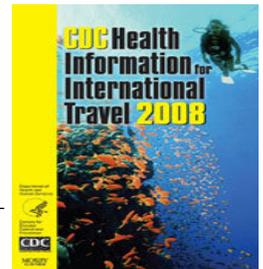
Aggressive public health action is needed in response to measles cases because it is such a highly contagious disease among unvaccinated persons. Vaccinations are essential to prevent the spread.

Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, and an erythematous maculopapular rash. "Koplik spots" on mucous

membranes are characteristic. Complications can include diarrhea, middle ear infections, and, less commonly, pneumonia.

Presumptive evidence of immunity to measles includes 2 doses of MMR vaccine, serologic evidence, birth before 1957, or physician-diagnosed measles.

VISIT THE CDC WEBSITE FOR MORE TRAVEL INFO



<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/>

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

### What we are seeing in Chickahominy:

#### Mar '08 Reported Diseases

1 case of meningococemia (i.e. in blood) in a 71-year old female

3 cases of invasive MRSA

1 gastrointestinal illness outbreak in long-term care facility (19 affected)

3 cases of Chickenpox in 6-7-year old children

1 case of Campylobacteriosis in a 14-year old female (drank raw milk)

### Immunization information

#### Hib vaccine

There is a temporary *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) vaccine shortage. Please do not give the booster to healthy children aged 12-15 months. Instead, give the Hib booster to high-risk children (i.e. those with asplenia, and sickle cell disease, and immune-compromised, such as HIV-positive).

#### Mumps and Varicella Vx for Schools

A correction has been made to the recent requirement regarding the number of doses of mumps and varicella (chickenpox) vaccines for school attendance in the 2008-2009 school year. Revised regulations are currently in the approval process by the Board of Health

for requiring 2 doses; however, this will not be effective for the upcoming school year.

#### After-hours

#### Emergency Number

\*\*\* 866-531-3098 \*\*\*

When rapidly reportable diseases and public health emergencies occur during non-business hours, please contact the health department by using the toll free emergency paging system. This number will contact Keener Communications, who will then contact the Epidemiologist, Health Director, and/or District Manager using the contact information that they have on file.