

CHICKAHOMINY HEALTH NEWS



Serving the counties of Charles City, Goochland, Hanover, and New Kent

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NEWSWORTHY

NATION/STATE

Did you receive a fax about E coli recently?

Healthcare providers in the Richmond area should have received a fax from the state Health Commissioner, Dr. Karen Remley, a short while ago regarding associations of ground beef with gastrointestinal illness. There is a need for stool specimens to confirm etiological agents. Please continue to monitor for suspect *E coli* infections through September 2008.

LOCAL

Were you aware of our local Medical Reserve Corps? The Chickahominy Regional Medical Reserve Corps (CR-MRC) is holding its next meeting at the Hanover Air Park Office on September 9th at 6:30pm. Please visit their website for more info: (<http://www.crmrc.us>)



Contact Us

Chickahominy Health District

12312 Washington Hwy
Ashland, VA 23005

District Director

W. Ted Tweel, MD MPH

Phone: 804-365-4313

Fax: 804-365-4355

E: Ted.Tweel@vdh.virginia.gov

Emergency (after hrs): 866-531-3068

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

SPOTLIGHT: RABIES POST-EXPOSURE VACCINE

There is a current temporary rabies vaccine shortage in the United States. Here are some important points from the CDC:

***Novartis [RabAvert manufacturer] will require health providers to obtain a confirmation code from state or local health departments before releasing vaccine doses for post-exposure prophylaxis to ensure adequate risk assessments at the local level.**

Why is there an interruption in supply? Starting in June 2007, Sanofi Pasteur began renovating its IMOVAX Rabies vaccine production facility in France to maintain compliance with the most current requirements from FDA and the French regulatory body.

Prior to these renovations, Sanofi Pasteur established an inventory based on historical levels of sales and projected market demand. The facility is scheduled to be approved and operational by mid-to-late 2009.

IMOVAX rabies vaccine from Sanofi Pasteur is currently unavailable, and RabAvert is the only available vaccine for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis at this time. Please consult with state and local health departments for exposure assessment and to obtain a confirmation code before contacting Novartis at 1-800-244-7668 to obtain Rabies vaccine doses for patients who have been exposed to rabies.

The Hanover Health Department is working closely with the emergency department and pharmacy at Memorial Regional Medical Center in Mechanicsville, VA. Hospitals outside of our health district will also be working with their local health departments during this shortage.

If you have a patient that may have been exposed to a rabid animal, please consult with local animal control officers. You can also give us a call.

For questions, call:

365-4319

After hours:

866-531-3068 (toll free)

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

What we are seeing in Chickahominy:

July '08 Reported Diseases

3 Salmonellosis cases (not linked, ages 17-67)

1 Varicella infection in an 8 year old female

1 acute Hepatitis B case in a 48 year old male

1 confirmed Lyme disease, 54 year old female

1 MRSA, invasive infection in a 62 year old male

1 Hand, Foot, and Mouth outbreak (10 cases)

U.S. measles outbreak

Between January 1 and July 31, 2008, a total of 131 measles cases were reported to CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. This is the most reported cases year-to-date since 1996. Of the 131 cases, 123 were among U.S. residents.

Of the 131 case-patients, 91% were unvaccinated or of unknown vaccination status. Among the 112 unvaccinated U.S. residents with measles, 16 were younger than 12 months of age and too young for vaccination, and one had presumed evidence of measles immunity because he/she was born before 1957. Of the remaining 95 case-patients eligible for vacci-

nation, 63 were unvaccinated because of their own or their parents' philosophical or religious beliefs. About 89% of the 131 cases were imported from or associated with importations from other countries. Seventeen of the cases were importations, and an additional 99 had evidence of importation or were epidemiologically linked to importations.

Maintaining high vaccine coverage with MMR vaccine is critical for preventing measles cases and outbreaks in the U.S..

Locally, we should remain vigilant regarding the possibility of measles, especially in persons who travel abroad, including to Europe.