



ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

420 Superior Street · Sandusky, OH 44870 · (419) 626-5623

**Erie County Communicable Disease Report
Quarter 1 (January-March 2019)**

Communicable Disease Statistics			
	January	February	March
Total Reported CDs	69	77	73
Total Outbreaks	1 gastrointestinal	1 gastrointestinal	1 dermatological
Top 5 Reported CDs/Month	Chlamydia (33)	Chlamydia (26)	Flu Hospitalization (27)
	Hepatitis C (14)	Gonorrhea (17)	Chlamydia (26)
	Gonorrhea (8)	Hepatitis C (16)	Hepatitis C (9)
	Flu Hospitalization (5)	Flu Hospitalization (8)	Gonorrhea (7)
	Giardiasis (2)	Hepatitis B (3)	Hepatitis B (1)

DISEASE REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION

Please be familiar with Chapter 3703-3 of the Ohio Administrative Code as it pertains to communicable diseases. The following codes are commonly used:

- 3701-3-02 Diseases to be reported
- 3701-3-03 Reportable disease notification
- 3701-3-05 Time to report
- 3701-3-08 Release of patient’s medical records
- 3701-3-13 Isolation requirement
- 3701-3-28 Report of bite of dog or other mammal

Learn more about these codes at:
<http://1.usa.gov/21WljVB>

Multi-State Measles Outbreak

As of May 3, 2019, 764 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 23 states. This is the largest reported number of cases since 2014 (667 cases). The CDC suspects that increased international travel (into and out of the United States) and pockets of unvaccinated individuals within the US are the reason for the increase in measles cases.

Ohio has not reported any cases of measles as of May 3, 2019. Four of Ohio’s bordering states have reported at least one measles case in 2019: Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania.

Symptoms of measles include:

- Fever (>101F)
- Stuffy Nose
- Conjunctivitis
- Cough
- Photophobia (lasting 2-4 days)
- Maculopapular rash starting on the face and spreading to the rest of the body
- Koplik spots may appear in the throat prior to rash onset

When looking at measles as a possible diagnosis, please consider:

- Vaccination status (at least 1 MMR vaccine history provides >90% protection)
- Recent travel, especially to an area with an active outbreak of measles
- If measles is suspected, conduct the appropriate testing (IgM and IgG testing via nasopharyngeal, throat, or blood specimen)
- Isolation, quarantine, and post-exposure prophylaxis should be considered based on the degree of a suspected case and their exposures
- Symptoms typically appear within 14 days after exposure, with a range of 7-21 days. Symptoms usually subside after 7-9 days.

Please remember that Measles is a Class A reportable disease and must be reported immediately by telephone to the local health department where the patient resides.

Seasonal Influenza

The 2018-2019 flu season included a steep increase late in the season. March had the highest reported cases of influenza-associated hospitalizations, as well as the most positive rapid influenza tests within Erie County. It is important to stress vaccination, social distancing when sick, and good handwashing to prevent illness. In March, Influenza A (H3) became the dominating strain.

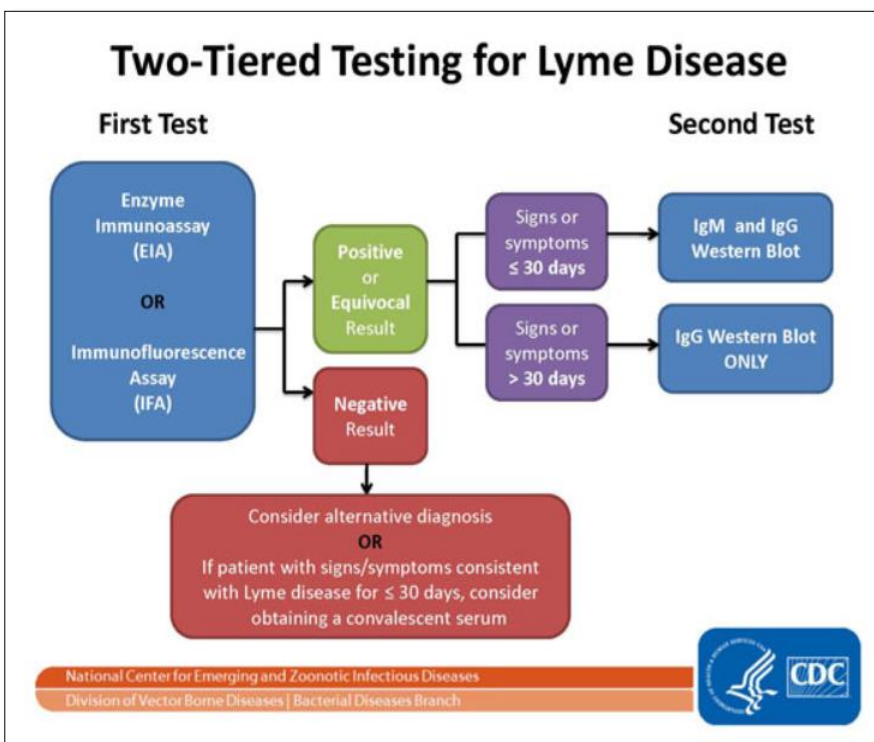
For more information on seasonal influenza activity, please use the following resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurve.htm>

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/seasonal-influenza/ohio-flu-activity/>

Lyme Disease

In anticipation of a highly active tick season this year, please remember to review proper protocols when it comes to the diagnosis and testing of Lyme disease in your patients. Laboratory blood tests are helpful if used correctly and performed with validated methods. However, it is important to only test patients who have symptoms typical of Lyme disease and/or have a history of possible exposure to infected blacklegged ticks.



CDC currently recommends a two-step process when testing blood for evidence of antibodies against the Lyme disease bacteria. Both steps can be done using the same blood sample and are designed to be done together. CDC does not recommend skipping the first test and just doing the Western blot (this increases the frequency of false positives).

Symptoms of acute Lyme disease include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle/Joint aches
- Swollen Lymph nodes
- Erythema migrans (EM) rash

For more information on Lyme disease symptomology and testing recommendations, please use the following resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/lyme>

Did you know the Erie County Health Department releases weekly flu reports throughout flu season?

Contact Ashley Franks (afranks@ecghd.org) to receive weekly influenza updates from MMWR weeks 40-20

OR

View the Erie County Weekly Flu Reports at www.ecghd.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Erie County Health Department (419) 626-5623 x200

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov

Ohio Department of Health www.odh.ohio.gov