Clayton County Board of Health
Epidemiology Newsletter
April - June, 2017

INTRODUCTION

SUMMER time is here……and yes, Zika virus remains a concern, particularly due to mosquito season in the summer months. The Epidemiology department continues to keep up with all reports and complete all follow-up investigations for reported cases to confirm individual status.

QUARTER IN REVIEW

- The department received and worked (some ongoing) on approximately 630 reportable infections in the second quarter of 2017. Approximately 250 were general notifiables and 380 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

- A total of 45 incidents of animal bites were reported. 5 animal specimens were sent for testing with 1 positive for rabies. Prophylaxis was recommended for the individual involved. Additionally, 1 animal was confined for 10 days and 5 animals were euthanized by animal control

- "TIP N TOSS" any standing water to eliminate breeding locations for mosquitoes and prevent illness.

- If outdoors for an extended period, apply sunscreen first, followed by insect repellant to help protect against mosquito bites.

- To mark National HIV Testing Day on June 27th, The Clayton County Board of Health partnered with the Greater Than AIDS campaign and Walgreens to offer free HIV testing in the community from June 27 – 29th.

  About 140 people were tested during the 3 days.

- We still have significant flu activity in Georgia with increased influenza-associated hospitalizations. Hand hygiene as well as other prevention practices are highly encouraged.

Have questions? Call the Epidemiology department at 678-610-7193 or 678-479-2200.

References: www.https://sendss.state.ga.us; www.cdc.gov; www.dph.georgia.gov; https://www.hhs.gov

DID YOU KNOW…

- Georgia averages 122 drowning deaths a year. To prevent accidents, take swimming lessons and follow these guidelines when visiting the pool this summer:

  - Supervise children closely and make sure there is a proper barrier or fence around the pool.

  - Make sure all drains are covered and secured at the bottom of the pool.

  - Identify and locate lifesaving equipment on arrival.

- When gardening, camping, hiking, and playing outdoors, don't forget to take steps to prevent bites from ticks that share the outdoors. Ticks can infect humans with bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause serious illness.

- According to a report by the CDC, both young men and young women are heavily affected by STDs — but young women face the most serious long-term health consequences. It is estimated that undiagnosed STDs cause infertility in more than 20,000 women each year.

- A Health and Human Services (HHS) action plan for viral hepatitis indicates that from 2011 through 2014, there was a 250% increase in reported new Hepatitis C Virus infections.

- One (1) in six (6) Americans gets sick from contaminated foods or beverages. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that foodborne illnesses cost $15.6 billion each year.

  Always take appropriate steps to prevent and avoid food poisoning and other illnesses.

Keep calm and trust the Epidemiologist! ☺

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Board Of Health
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