

# Public Health Brief

## A Newsletter on Current Public Health Topics



Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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Time and date: 8:30:00 AM 3/9/2018

Number of pages including cover: 4

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You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use or if you have additional questions, please call 720-200-1477.

**Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:**

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Info Service/Public Health Brief:** Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

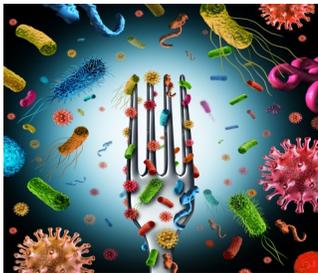
You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at  
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>

## Disease Highlight: *Salmonella* Outbreak Associated with a Local Restaurant

On November 22, 2017, Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) initially identified four cases of *Salmonella* in persons who all ate at the same restaurant. In total, 13 confirmed and 20 probable cases were identified through routine case investigation and patron interviews. One confirmed case was an asymptomatic food worker. All confirmed cases matched by pulse-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). Three cases were hospitalized and one case died due to *Salmonella* infection.

TCHD conducted an inspection of the restaurant, which revealed violations including: cross-contamination, improper/lack of hand washing, improper hot-holding of foods, improper cooling of foods, and lack of hot water at a hand sink.

Additional follow up inspections showed correction of these violations. TCHD worked with restaurant



ownership to review disease prevention and control measures and provided recommendations for preventing foodborne illness. The facility voluntarily closed on February 9, 2018.

### Did you know?

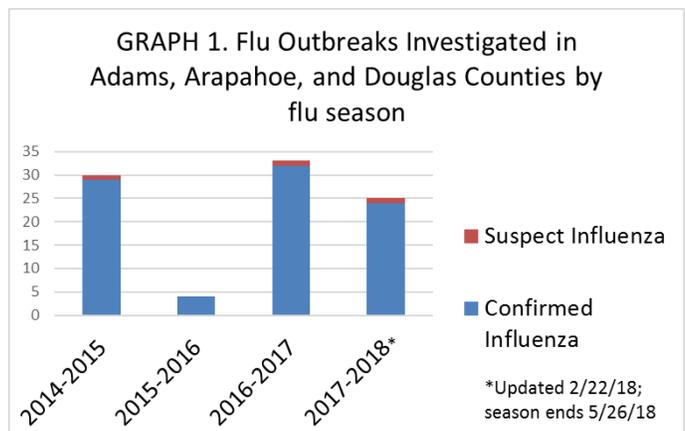
National Public Health Week (NPHW), **April 2-8, 2018**, is a way to support strong public health systems and raise awareness about everyone's role in creating the healthiest nation. The focus this year: [Behavioral Health](#), [Communicable Disease](#), [Environmental Health](#), [Violence Prevention](#), [Ensuring the Right to Health](#). Help us improve the health of our communities by 2030!  
<http://www.nphw.org/nphw-2018>

## Take a Bite Out of Spring and Summer

It's spring and wildlife will be coming out of hibernation. Rabies reservoir species in Colorado include bats, skunks, raccoons, foxes, and coyotes. In 2017, TCHD investigated 234 exposures involving wildlife with humans and/or domestic pets. Additionally, 8 bats and 8 skunks tested positive for rabies in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. Report any pet or human exposure to wildlife immediately to TCHD. For human exposure to domestic animals (i.e. dog and cat bites), please use the updated [Animal Bite/Exposure Reporting Form](#). These forms are then sent to animal control for follow up. As always, remind others not to touch or approach wildlife. Vaccinating pets and livestock is the best protection from rabies exposures.



**How does the 2017-2018 flu season compare?** This year the predominate flu strain is type A H3N2, similar to what was seen in 2014-2015. This strain is usually associated with a more severe flu season. Colorado reports the highest number of flu hospitalizations on record this flu season. Graph 1 shows the number of outbreaks for 2017-2018 are comparable to the 2014-2015 flu season, yet the current season does not end until May 26, 2018. Flu vaccination is still recommended; antiviral therapy is recommended for people who develop flu, especially those with underlying health issues such as heart and lung disease. More data on flu in Colorado can be found [here](#).



Thank you to our community partners, including providers and laboratories, for support in the timely reporting of reportable conditions which is critical to our prompt and effective response to outbreaks to protect the communities we serve! Contact us at (303) 220-9200. After hours: (303) 461-2342 | Visit our website [here](#).



# Animal Bite / Exposure Reporting Form

Reported by:  Date:

## Animal

Domestic	Wild	The animal is...
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> Wolf hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Skunk <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fox <input type="checkbox"/> Rodent <input type="checkbox"/> Owned <input type="checkbox"/> Stray/feral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> Alive and in quarantine <input type="checkbox"/> Waiting to be tested <input type="checkbox"/> Euthanized <input type="checkbox"/> Location unknown

If animal has not been quarantined, why not?

Description of animal (breed, color, sex):

Is the animal currently vaccinated?  Yes  No  Unknown Date of last vaccination:

Date of bite:  Time of bite (if known):

Geographic location where bite occurred:

Behavior (e.g., was animal healthy, ill, or exhibiting abnormal behavior?) Explain:

Circumstances of bite:

Animal Control Office (if reported):

Animal Control Officer:  Phone:

## Patient

First Name:  Last Name:

Address:  County:

City:  ZIP code:

Sex	Ethnicity	Race	Phone:
<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Non Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="text"/> Patient ID/MR #: <input type="text"/> DOB: <input type="text"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Other Race	

## Owner

First Name:  Last Name:

Address:  Phone:

City:  ZIP code:  County:

## Physician

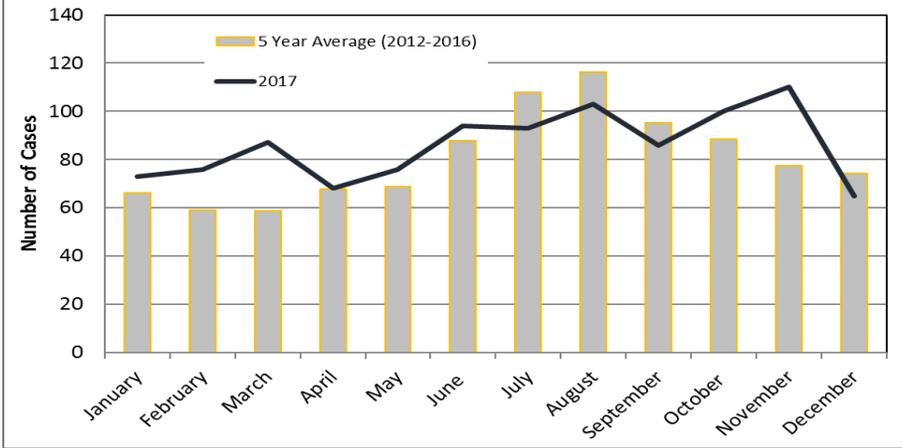
Physician Name:  Phone:

Name/Address of Practice:

Has rabies PEP started?  Yes  No  Unknown Has the Local Health Dept recommended rabies PEP?  Yes  No  Unknown

Please fax to the relevant local public health agency or animal control office.  
If the contact info for the relevant agency is not known, please fax to CDPHE at 303-782-0338.

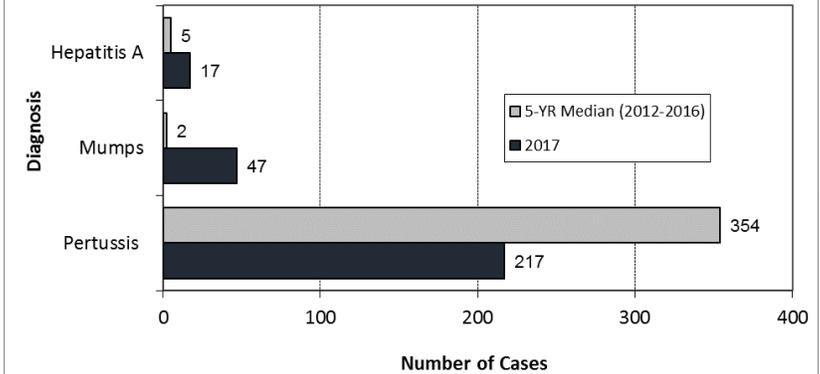
**GRAPH 2. Reportable diseases investigated in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, 2017 (n=1031)**



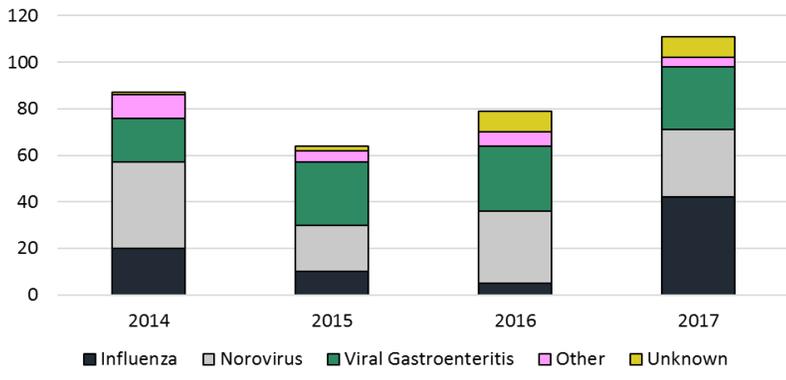
In 2017, not including animal bites, TCHD investigated 1031 cases of reportable conditions (Graph 2). This represents a 5% increase compared to 2016.

Graph 3 shows the number of cases reported for select vaccine reportable diseases in the TCHD jurisdiction. Hepatitis A and Mumps cases increased while Pertussis cases decreased compared to the previous five-year median. Fourteen of 47 mumps cases reported in 2017 were associated with an outbreak that spanned from November 2016 to April 2017. The majority of the increase in Hepatitis A cases were attributed to a statewide outbreak, with over half of the male cases identified as men who have sex with men.

**GRAPH 3. Select vaccine reportable diseases in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, 2017**



**GRAPH 4. Outbreaks investigated (n=111) in Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas Counties, by etiology, 2014-2017**



In 2017, TCHD investigated a total of 111 outbreaks representing a 40% increase from the number of outbreaks investigated in 2016 (n=79). Graph 4 shows outbreaks investigated during 2014-2017 and the etiology identified. Influenza and gastrointestinal illness, including norovirus, account for the majority of the outbreaks investigated across all years. Outbreaks with etiology of 'Other' in 2017 include 2 Salmonella, 1 scombroid toxin and 1 case of Legionellosis.