

# Infectious Tidbits

The Quarterly Infectious Disease Newsletter from Tri-County Health Department

## Disease Highlight: Increase in Hepatitis A cases —Get Vaccinated!

Colorado has had 54 cases of hepatitis A virus (HAV), as of August 30, 2017, more than double the number Colorado sees for an entire year; 16 of the cases have been in TCHD's jurisdiction. One of the cases died and approximately 50% were hospitalized. We're seeing more cases among men who have sex with other unvaccinated men.

Hepatitis A, a vaccine preventable disease that affects the liver, can cause jaundice, fatigue, abdominal cramping, and fever. Persons infected with the virus are infectious for up to two weeks prior to symptom onset, and one week after jaundice. HAV is spread through fecal oral transmission when an infected person:

- does not thoroughly wash their hands prior to preparing foods for others
- has oral or anal sex with others
- contaminates an object with feces that is ingested by others

The vaccine is recommended for most people over the age of one, but especially for:

- men who have sex with men
- people with chronic liver disease
- people traveling to countries where HAV is common
- people who use injection and non-injection street drugs



For more information on where you can get a low cost, confidential vaccine, call 303-451-0123 or go to [vaccinefinder.org](http://vaccinefinder.org)

## World Rabies Day: September 28, 2017

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

### Contact Information:

Report infectious diseases or outbreaks to TCHD within 24 hours to help prevent further spread of illness!

[www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org) or

call Disease Control at (303) 220-9200

After hours: 303-461-2342

## Did you know? National Lead Awareness Week is October 22-28, 2017

For more information go to: [www.tchd.org/lead](http://www.tchd.org/lead)

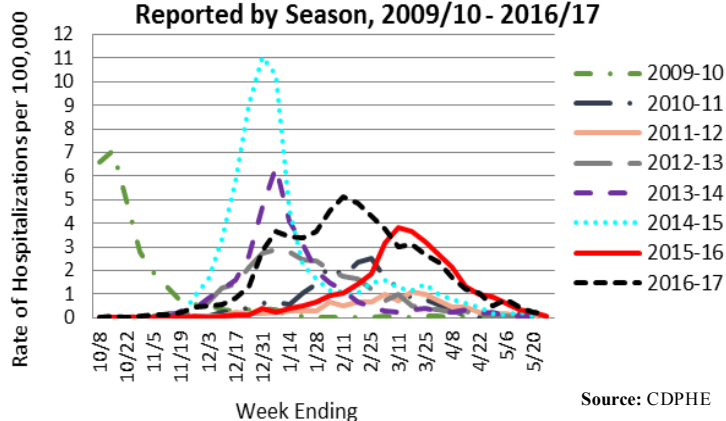
## Flu Season is around the Corner!

**Recap:** According to CDPHE's data for the 2016-2017 season, there were a total of 3,340 hospitalized flu cases in Colorado, with 26% of the cases from the Tri-County Health Department jurisdiction of Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas counties.

**Recommendations:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual flu vaccination for all individuals 6 months or older, with rare exception (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/whoshouldvax.htm>). High risk groups such as, children 6 months to 4 years, adults 50 years and older, immunosuppressed individuals, and healthcare personnel are particularly encouraged to receive annual vaccination. As shown in the graph below, the timing of peak hospitalization rates vary by season. Due to this variance, the recommendation is to get your flu vaccine as soon as it's available.

**Reminder:** Beginning in the 2016-2017 season, the ACIP released guidance against using a live attenuated influenza vaccine due to concerns about its effectiveness. ACIP guidelines for flu and other vaccines are available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/flu.html>.

## Rates of Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations Reported by Season, 2009/10 - 2016/17



Source: CDPHE



Eleven offices along the front range serving the residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties  
 Administration Office: 6162 S. Willow Drive, Suite 100 • Greenwood Village, CO 80111-5114  
 Telephone: 303-220-9200 • Fax: 303-220-9208 • Website: [www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org)