

Public Health Update

August 2008

Democratic National Convention Comes to Denver

By Kathy Bird, DO, MS

The Democratic National Convention (DNC) will focus national political attention on Denver from August 25 through August 28. The Democratic Party's activities will center on the Pepsi Center and Invesco Field at Mile High, but the entire city will be buzzing with convention activities and attendees. More than 30,000 delegates, media, supporters, and activists are expected to attend the event. In order to facilitate the convention, city, county, and federal planners have been planning for this event for over a year. They have anticipated a variety of needs, including health concerns.

As would be expected, more people in the Denver area may translate to more illness requiring increased medical intervention. Dehydration tops the list of concerns as August is the second hottest month of the year in Denver, and the higher altitudes may affect people who are not acclimatized. In addition, higher rates of injuries or other illnesses may occur.

This update describes some of the activities Tri-County Health Department and other area health departments will be conducting during the DNC, to prevent diseases and protect the health of the public. It also describes what you, as a healthcare provider, can do to help prevent the spread of disease.

Surveillance: Monitoring diseases

Tri-County Health Department has collaborated with Denver Public Health, the state health department, and other metro-area health departments on plans to prevent and react to a wide range of hazards that could affect our community. In order to quickly identify and control health hazards or outbreaks, it is important to collect community-wide disease information and monitor it for unusual patterns. Disease surveillance will take many forms during the DNC. The state and metro-area health departments have created a Surveillance Group to monitor diseases in the population and rapidly identify outbreaks or other health risks. This Surveillance Group will collect the following disease-related information during the DNC:

- **Emergency Room Data** – chief complaints in area emergency departments will be monitored for unusual patterns
- **First Aid Intake Data** – chief complaints of DNC attendees who visit First Aid Stations at DNC venues will be monitored daily for atypical complaints
- **Telephone Surveillance** – the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center hotlines will be monitored for unusual calls
- **Hospital and Laboratory Disease Reporting** –disease information from area hospitals and laboratories will be collected through the state electronic reporting system and then reviewed for atypical cases or trends

All of these data will be analyzed to identify outbreaks or unusual cases that may affect the public's health. In addition, the air around the metropolitan area will be monitored for biological and chemical hazards in the environment. In the event of an outbreak, health care providers will be faxed a notice by the Health Alert Network (HAN).

Health Care Providers' Role

As a health care provider, you may be the first person aware that an individual has an illness, making you instrumental in detecting an outbreak. If you begin to notice an increase in certain symptoms or illnesses in patients, please report this trend to the Tri-County Health Department as soon as possible. Tri-County's Disease Intervention Specialists will investigate to see if there is an outbreak in the community and implement appropriate control measures as needed. To report unusual trends or potential outbreaks, please call 303-220-9200 and ask for a Disease Intervention Specialist.

Furthermore, as always, remember that certain infectious diseases are required to be reported to the health department. This enables the health department to monitor disease trends, identify and investigate outbreaks, and implement control measures to prevent the spread of diseases. The following is a list of reportable diseases. If you know or suspect that any patients have these illnesses, please contact a Disease Intervention Specialist at Tri-County Health Department, 303-220-9200.

REPORTABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS IN COLORADO

24 - Hour Reportables		
Animal bites by dogs, cats, bats, skunks or other wild carnivores	Haemophilus influenzae invasive disease	Poliomyelitis
Anthrax	Hepatitis A	Rubella
Botulism	Human Rabies (suspected)	SARS
Cholera	Measles	Smallpox
Diphtheria	Neisseria meningitidis invasive disease	Syphilis, early (1°, 2°, early latent)
Group Outbreaks - known or suspected	Pertussis	Tuberculosis (active disease)
of all types: including foodborne, waterborne or other illness	Plague	Typhoid Fever

7- Day Reportables		
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases		
Hepatitis B (7d) Influenza - associated hospitalization (7d)	Influenza - associated death if <18 years (7d) Mumps (7d)	Rubella, congenital (7d) Tetanus (7d) Varicella (7d)
Foodborne and Enteric Diseases		
Campylobacteriosis (7d) Cryptosporidiosis (7d) Cyclospora (7d) E. coli 0157:H7 & shiga toxin producing E. coli (7d)	Giardiasis (7d) Hemolytic uremic syndrome if <18 years (7d) Listeriosis (7d)	Salmonellosis (7d) Shigellosis (7d) Trichinosis (7d)
Sexually Transmitted Diseases		
AIDS and HIV infection (7d) Chancroid (7d)	Gonorrhea, any site (7d)	Lymphogranuloma venereum (7d)
Zoonotic Diseases		
Brucellosis (7d) Hantavirus (7d) Lyme Disease (7d)	Psittacosis (7d) Q Fever (7d) Relapsing Fever (7d)	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (7d) Tularemia (7d)
Meningitis/Encephalitis & Invasive Disease		
Encephalitis (7d) encephalopathy (7d)	Aseptic meningitis (7d)	Transmissible spongiform
Other Important Reportable Diseases		
Hepatitis C, acute (7d) Hepatitis, other viral (7d) Kawasaki Syndrome (7d)	Legionellosis (7d) Leprosy (7d) Malaria (7d)	Toxic Shock Syndrome (7d) Positive TB skin test in workers exposed to active disease (7d)
Environmental, Occupational, and Chronic Conditions		
Autism spectrum disorders <10 years old (30d)+ Birth defects, developmental disabilities and risk factors (pregnancy to 3rd birthday) (120d)+ (+) <i>only hospitals required to report</i>	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome if <10 years old (30d) Head injuries (hospitalized or fatal) (120d)+	Muscular Dystrophy (120d)+ Spinal cord injuries (120d)+

For a complete list of notifiable diseases in Colorado, please visit
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/medlist.pdf>

For more information or questions, please contact:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:
(303) 692-2700 / (303) 370-9395 (after hours)
Fax: (303) 782-0338

Tri-County Health Department:
(303) 220-9200 / 303-461-2342 (after hours)
Fax: (303) 220-9208

Selected Diseases by Date of Report Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas Counties 2008 Year-to-date Through June

