

Infectious Tidbits

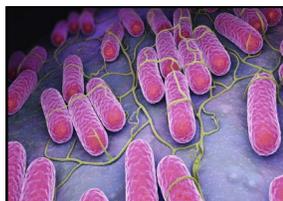
The Quarterly Infectious Disease Newsletter from Tri-County Health Department

Disease Highlight: Salmonella Outbreak at a Douglas County Restaurant

In April 2017, Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) identified a cluster of *Salmonella* Typhimurium cases with identical DNA fingerprints. All cases reported eating at the same Douglas County restaurant during their incubation period. Cases had no other common exposures.

TCHD distributed an online survey to dining companions of laboratory confirmed cases to identify additional cases. In total, there were 21 outbreak associated cases. Twelve of the 21 were laboratory confirmed, including 3 food handlers, and 1 case of secondary transmission. With the exception of the secondary case, all others had eaten or worked at the restaurant within a 3-day period, strengthening the linkage between the outbreak and the restaurant.

TCHD conducted a disease-focused inspection and identified violations related to improper hand washing, employee hygiene practices, bare hand contact with ready to eat foods, and food holding temperatures. The inspection and food exposure



analysis findings suggested that uncooked basil, cross-contaminated on site, was the source of the outbreak.

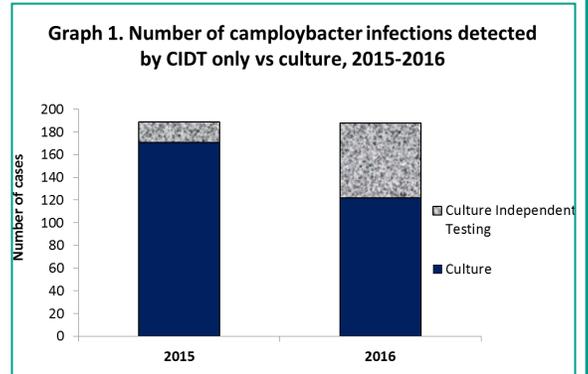
West Nile Virus Season Begins

West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in Colorado occurs between May and December. In 2016, Colorado reported 148 laboratory confirmed cases of WNV. WNV antibody testing is conducted at the state health department lab as well as most commercial labs. TCHD investigates cases to determine whether a person has compatible signs, symptoms and a history of recent exposure. Report all cases of WNV to TCHD or the state health department for surveillance and investigation. No cases have been reported in 2017 to date. For more information go to: <http://www.fightthebitecolorado.com>



Culture-independent diagnostic tests (CIDTs)

More clinical laboratories are using CIDTs without culture confirmation of positive tests. In 2016, a 376 percent increase in CIDTs among campylobacter infections (Graph 1) was observed. Although CIDTs produce results quicker than culture, these assays do not yield a bacterial isolate, thereby limiting public health's ability to characterize strain types, antimicrobial resistance or identify outbreaks.



Did you know?

The risk of recreational waterborne illnesses (RWIs) increase during the summer months. Cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, and *E. coli* O157:H7 are the notifiable diarrheal diseases most often associated with RWI outbreaks. These organisms thrive in untreated water, particularly splash pads, fountains, lakes, rivers, and ponds. *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* are especially hardy parasites and can survive for days, even in properly maintained and chlorinated pools. People with diarrhea should not swim while symptomatic. Patients with these conditions should not swim for an additional 2 weeks after symptoms have resolved.

To help protect swimmers from microbes in the water, follow the CDC's Steps of Health Swimming. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/steps-healthy-swimming.html>



Contact Information:

Report any suspected foodborne illness or outbreak to TCHD within 24 hours to help prevent further spread of illness!

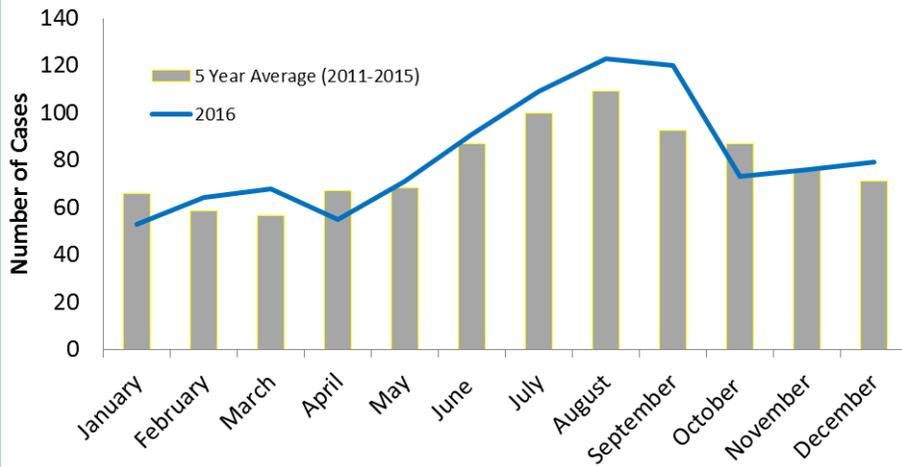
www.tchd.org

or call Disease Control at (303) 220-9200

After hours: 303-461-2342

2016 Year End Review

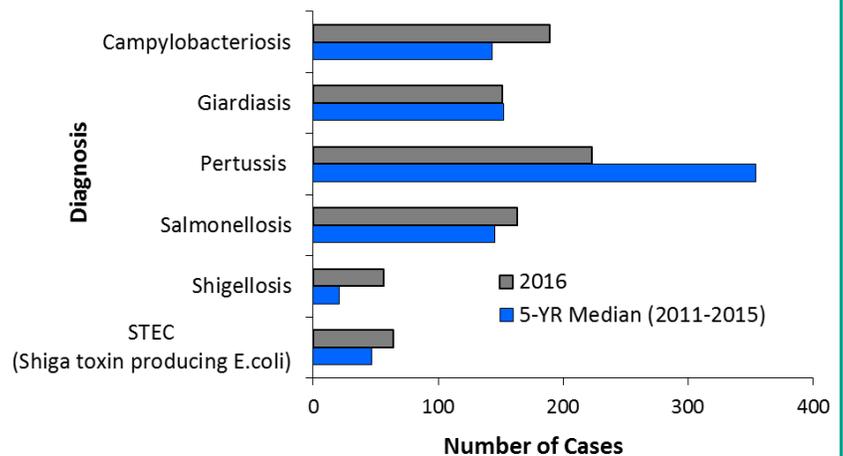
GRAPH 2. 2016 reportable diseases investigated in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties, 2016



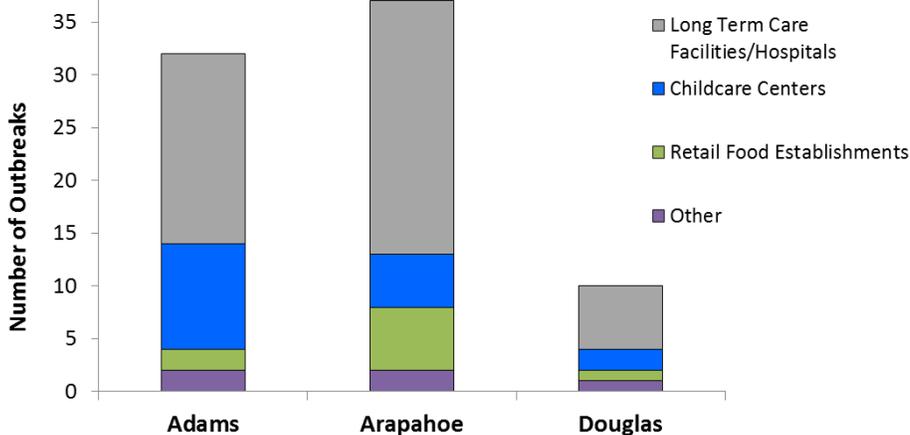
In 2016, not including animal bites, TCHD investigated 982 cases of reportable conditions (Graph 2.) This represents a 12% increase compared to 2015.

Graph 3 shows the number of cases reported for select communicable diseases in our region. Campylobacter and Shigella cases have increased while Pertussis has decreased compared to the 5-Yr median. The majority of the Shigella increase is due to an outbreak in a Douglas County child care center in February, 2016, accounting for 18 cases.

GRAPH 3. Select reportable diseases in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties, 2016



GRAPH 4. Outbreaks investigated (n=79) in Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas counties, by facility type, 2016



In 2016, TCHD investigated a total of 79 outbreaks representing a 23% increase from the number of outbreaks investigated in 2015 (n=64). Graph 4 shows the counties and settings in which outbreaks were identified and demonstrates the high burden that outbreaks pose in long term care facilities.