

Public Health Brief

A Newsletter on Current Public Health Topics



Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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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>**

Nine pets test positive for rabies in Colorado



In 2018, nine domestic animals have tested positive in Colorado, including one alpaca in Douglas County, 1 dog in Pueblo County and 7 cats or dogs in Weld County. In total, 292 animals from Colorado have tested positive for rabies. This is the highest number of lab-confirmed rabies positive specimens ever recorded in Colorado!

Rabies Infection



It is important to keep domestic pets up-to-date on rabies vaccinations and to avoid contact with wildlife. Animal bites from dogs, cats and wild animals are reportable to public health within 24 hours. Please complete the animal bite reporting form located on the state health department's website [here](#). You can also call TCHD Communicable Disease Epidemiology 24 hours a day to report animal bites and get recommendations for rabies post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for people *and* pets exposed to wildlife.

World Rabies Day: September 28, 2018

World Rabies Day started in 2007 to raise awareness about the burden of rabies and bring together partners to enhance prevention and control efforts worldwide. While rabies is a 100% preventable disease, thousands of people die from the disease around the world each day. You too can take steps to help prevent and control rabies by vaccinating your pets and learning how to stay safe from the animals that commonly spread rabies in the U.S.: raccoons, bats, skunks, and foxes. Find **events** in your area to participate in World Rabies Day activities. <https://www.cdc.gov/worldrabiesday/>



Contact Information:

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

Call Communicable Disease at (303) 220-9200
After hours: (303) 461-2342

[Colorado Reportable Diseases Link](#)



Spanish Influenza: 100 Years of Discovery

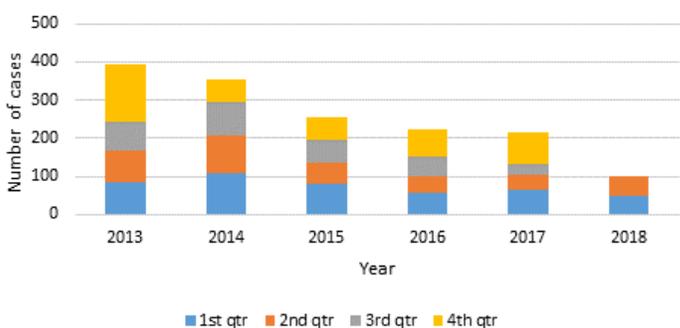
The Spanish Influenza was the most notable pandemic infecting one-third of the world's population (~500 million) and causing at least 50 million deaths. This year marks the 100th anniversary of one of the world's most notorious and devastating public health events. The Spanish Influenza was particularly challenging because viruses had yet to be discovered, limiting the ability to characterize, diagnose, treat, and prevent the illness. It was later discovered the Spanish Influenza was caused by an H1N1 virus. H1N1 flu lineages have continued to cause some of the most notable flu epidemics and pandemics. TCHD continues to educate the public about the importance of getting vaccinated before each flu season begins, and we need your help in educating the communities we all serve. Visit the CDC Features page to learn more about flu and the Spanish Influenza of 1918: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/1918-flu-pandemic/index.html> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/index.html>

TCHD and CDPHE Investigate Water Contamination Event at Water World in Federal Heights, Colorado

TCHD was notified about a non-potable water release into the potable water system at Water World on June 11th, 12th, and 13th. TCHD worked closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to remediate the problem. All employees were screened for illness before returning to work. Although there were some reported illnesses of giardiasis and cryptosporidiosis, the notification by Water World and the prompt public health response prevented a potential community wide outbreak.



Graph. TCHD Pertussis Cases January 1, 2013-June 30, 2018 by Quarter



Pertussis cases continue to sicken our communities

Although pertussis cases are on a continuous decline over the last 5 years as shown in Graph, pertussis is still a significant burden of illness. Encourage patients to receive their DTaP or Tdap vaccines as recommended in the **2018 CDC Immunization Schedule** for both children and adults. All pregnant women should receive 1 dose of Tdap during each pregnancy, preferably in the early part of gestational weeks 27-36 to protect their unvaccinated infants from pertussis.

Eleven offices along the Colorado front range serving the residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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