

SFDPH Communicable Disease Update

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SFDPH Communicable Disease Update

- Ebola monitoring
- Shigella update/outbreak
- Measles outbreak
- Seasonal influenza

Ebola monitoring

- The Ebola epidemic in West Africa is stabilizing/improving in most areas.
- SFDPH continues to monitor travelers returning from Ebola-affected countries in West Africa.
- These travelers are identified through CDC's airport screening process and information is passed along to SFDPH.
- Returning travelers are interviewed to assess potential exposures and risk status.
- Health Officer Orders are issued to reinforce monitoring process.

Ebola monitoring

- The purpose of monitoring is to assess daily for symptoms and fever so that any potential illness is caught early and referral for medical evaluation can be made in a controlled fashion.
- We monitor daily by phone and/or video conference for a 21-day period after the person's departure from the Ebola-affected country.
- Monitoring is done by nurses.
- Monitoring has been going smoothly; returning travelers have been cooperative and accepting of monitoring.
- We have successfully monitored approximately 30 individuals over the last few months.

Shigella update

- Shigella is a bacterium that causes a highly contagious gastroenteritis.
- Spread is fecal-oral (microscopic amount of feces getting in someone's mouth or on food).
- Common in developing countries; less common in United States.
- SF normally has about 100 cases per year; a large outbreak in the gay community 15 years ago that went on for over a year.

Usual approach to Shigella—single cases

- SFDPH normally has 5-10 Shigella case reports per month. These are generally positive stool culture results reported to us by labs.
- Each case is contacted and interviewed by phone to ascertain potential exposures and whether the person is in a “sensitive occupation or setting.”
- Case finding among contacts is also done.
- Patterns (e.g. exposures/place/time) indicating an outbreak are sought but we usually don’t identify a source for individual cases.

Shigella outbreak

- Current outbreak of Ciprofloxacin-resistant Shigella began in November and is continuing.
- 181 cases have been identified so far. Despite extensive investigation and data analysis we have not found any common exposure or source for the outbreak.
- About 48% of cases are homeless or live in residential hotels with shared bathrooms.
- We attempting to interview all cases, but many are hard to reach by phone; if we are unable to interview, we review medical records.
- Information was disseminated to the medical community via Health Advisory in late December.

Shigella outbreak

- We are partnering with homeless outreach team (HOT), homeless service organizations to share hygiene supplies and information concerning the importance of seeking medical care when ill.
- Over 20,000 hand sanitizer towelettes have been distributed to programs that serve the homeless.
- We are working with SFDPH Environmental Health Branch to inspect soup kitchens, shelters, and residential hotels and educate staff to eliminate sources of spread (examples are cleaning of facilities; supplying hand sanitizer before meals).
- It looks as if outbreak is likely slowing down but it is too early to know for sure.

Measles outbreak

- Measles is a highly contagious virus that causes an infection with high fever, rash, and cough. It is spread through the air.
- Measles vaccine is safe and extremely effective. Most people in the US are immune to measles because they have been vaccinated.
- Measles outbreak in CA since late December 2014
- There are 110 cases statewide so far. For those cases for whom vaccination status is known, most are unimmunized.

Measles outbreak

- San Francisco schoolchildren are immunized against measles at approximately the same rate as children statewide (90%).
- San Francisco has a low rate of Personal Belief Exemptions (PBEs).
- Some schoolchildren are “conditional entrants” — allowed to enter school while some immunizations are pending.
- SFDPH is working with SFUSD to provide free measles vaccine for children who are not up-to-date on their immunizations.

Measles outbreak

- Most Bay Area Counties have reported measles cases.
- There have been no cases in San Francisco residents associated with this outbreak.
- An individual who lives in Contra Costa County, rode BART and worked in San Francisco during his infectious period was confirmed to have measles. Information was released to the media on 2/11.
- SFPDPH is working closely with the individual's employer (LinkedIn) to inform employees regarding the workplace exposure and to manage the exposure. The employer is cooperating fully.
- It is possible that additional cases may result from this exposure but we don't know of any at this time.
- A updated Health Advisory was distributed to the medical community on 2/11.

Seasonal Influenza

- Seasonal influenza is starting to wane.
- It looks as if this was a medium-to-severe season but we never know for sure until afterwards.
- Vaccine efficacy limited this year due to mismatch. Predominant strain H3N2, tends to affect the elderly more severely.
- SF has had 1 death reported in an individual under 65 and has responded to 11 outbreaks in long term care facilities so far this season.