



Epi Update

A newsletter for healthcare professionals in Platte County, MO

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Missouri DHSS has released a health alert regarding EV-D68
- Learn how to avoid getting salmonellosis infections from your pets
- September is Fruits & Veggies—More Matters Month

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For more information or questions about Epi Update, contact Erin Sanders, PCHD Epidemiology Specialist at: (816) 858-2412

2014-15 ACIP Influenza Vaccination Recommendations

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has released updated influenza vaccination recommendations for the 2014-15 Influenza Season.¹ For this season, U.S.-licensed influenza vaccines will contain the same strains as those in the 2013-14 vaccine.

Main recommendations include:

- Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for **all persons aged ≥ 6 months** who do not have contraindications
- Influenza vaccines should be offered by health care providers as soon as vaccine is available and **for as long as influenza viruses are circulating**.
- **NEW recommendation:** Children aged ≥ 6 months through 8 years require 2 doses of influenza vaccine at least 4 weeks apart. However, because the virus composition of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 influenza vaccines are the same, **if these children received more than 1 dose of the 2013-14 influenza vaccine, they will only need to receive 1 dose of the 2014-15 vaccine.**
- **NEW recommendation:** When immediately available, the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) should be used for healthy children aged 2-8 years, as **studies have demonstrated superior efficacy of LAIV in children.** However, influenza vaccinations should not be delayed, so inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) should be used if LAIV is not immediately available.

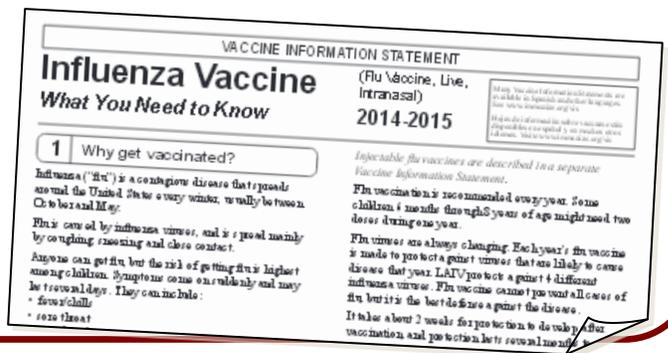
Recommendations in this report also provide:

- An **influenza vaccine dosing algorithm and flow chart** for children aged 6 months through 8 years based on their available influenza vaccination history
- A detailed list of populations that **should not receive LAIV**
- Detailed recommendations and flow chart for providing influenza vaccinations to persons with a history of **egg allergies**

For these more detailed recommendations, consult CDC's August 15th issue of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6332a3.htm>.¹

Go to <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/> to learn more:

- **What you should know for the 2014-15 flu season**
- Updated **vaccine information statements** for 2014-15 LAIV and IIV
- A table of **approved influenza vaccines for the 2014-15 season**



Missouri Health Alert—Enterovirus D68

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services issued a health alert regarding Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) on August 29, 2014.² Over 300 cases of pediatric respiratory illnesses were recently seen at a pediatric hospital in Kansas City, of which approximately 15% have required placement in the ICU. Nearly 90% of the 22 specimens tested by the CDC were positive for EV-D68. As of August 29, 2014, no

deaths due to EV-D68 have been reported in Missouri.

EV-D68 is historically a relatively rare strain of enteroviruses, though clusters of EV-D68 have recently appeared across Asia, Europe, and the U.S.. EV-D68 infections range from mild respiratory illnesses to severe cases requiring hospitalization and rarely, death. No specific treatment is available for EV-D68 infections, though most infections will be mild and

only require symptomatic treatment.

Clinicians should be aware of EV-D68 as a potential cause of viral respiratory disease and report any clusters of unexplained respiratory illness to the local public health agency or to Missouri DHSS. For more information about EV-D68, see the [complete health advisory](#) released by DHSS and the [EV-D68 webpage](#) recently posted by the CDC.^{2,3}

“Many pets other than bearded dragons can also carry *Salmonella*... including other reptiles, amphibians, or live poultry.”

Bearded dragon⁴



Recent Outbreak — *Salmonella* from Pet Bearded Dragons

An outbreak of *Salmonella* spanning 36 states was recently linked to contact with pet bearded dragons.⁴ A total of 166 salmonellosis cases (including 8 in the state of Missouri) were associated with this outbreak over a period of two years, from February 2012 to June 2014. Strains of *Salmonella* that were epidemiologically linked with bearded dragons in this outbreak include *Salmonella* Cotham and *Salmonella* Kisarawe. Though the CDC has closed their investigation of this outbreak, a low risk of *Salmonella* transmission from bearded dragons and other pet reptiles persists. As a result, educating owners on proper management of pets is important to prevent future transmission.

Bearded dragons can carry *Salmonella* without ever appearing sick and may continue to shed *Salmonella* throughout their life, so owners should always

practice safe habits.^{4,5} Recommendations include washing hands thoroughly after touching reptiles, reptile food, or any objects or surfaces where reptiles live or roam. Disinfect any surfaces that come into contact with reptiles. Do not let reptiles in areas where food or drink is prepared or served, and do not let reptiles roam freely throughout the house. Bathe reptiles in a tub or bin that is dedicated for reptile use only, and clean pet equipment outside the house.

Many pets other than bearded dragons can also carry *Salmonella*, including lizards, snakes, frogs, turtles, chicks, ducklings, and other types of pet reptiles, amphibians, or live poultry, so practice safe habits with these pets too.^{6,7} For more information on safely handling these pets, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/index.html>.

Quick Stats — Promoting Healthy Eating

In September, the Produce for Better Health Foundation promotes Fruits & Veggies – More Matters Month.⁸ Here are some quick stats about fruit and veggie consumption:



Children’s total **fruit intake** has increased from 2003-2010, but **vegetable intake** has not changed⁹

82%

of Platte County residents reported eating fruits and vegetables **less than 5 times per day** in 2011¹⁰

1/10

Platte County residents in 2011 **did not agree** that it was **easy to purchase healthy foods** in their neighborhood¹⁰

Communicable Disease Report

Notable this month:

The number of tick-borne disease reports in August decreased from the number of reports seen in the month of July.

Several bat, cat, and dog bites were reported in the month of August. All animals submitted for rabies testing by the health department tested negative for rabies.

Overall, August numbers reflect expected reporting for this time of year.

August Reportable Diseases	2014		YTD				5Y AVG
	Aug	YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	
Animal bites	5	24	26	25	28	8	22
Gastrointestinal Diseases	0	15	33	12	27	16	21
Hepatitis	3	42	51	62	37	21	42
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	4	39	25	75	26	49	43
Tuberculosis	5	27	50	34	33	21	33
Other	13	73	59	88	36	22	56
-Tick-borne Diseases	2	16	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL	30	220	243	296	187	137	217

Please note that categories are grouped communicable diseases or conditions, most of which are mandatory by law to report (see links below). Totals reported for each category represent total number of reports and inquiries to the health department, not total number of cases.

Categories: Animal bites category includes any type of bite. Gastrointestinal Disease category includes all reportable GI diseases. Hepatitis category could include chronic or acute infections of Hepatitis A, B or C. Sexually Transmitted Disease category includes all reportable STDs other than Hepatitis. Tuberculosis category includes all reports, calls/inquiries, requests for previous records, etc., regarding active or latent cases of TB. Other category includes reports or inquiries regarding individual diseases that do not fit previous categories.

List of Reportable Diseases & Conditions: <http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/communicabledisease/pdf/reportablediseaselist2.pdf>

Rules of Department of Health and Senior Services - Division 20—Division of Community and Public Health Chapter 20—Communicable Diseases: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/19csr/19c20-20.pdf>

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Services Provided

- Disease Surveillance
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Health
 - *Restaurant & Septic Inspections*
- Health Education
- Special Deliveries Program
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Vital Records
 - *Birth & Death Certificates*
- Family Healthcare Clinic
 - *Physician*
 - *Nurse Practitioner*
- Walk-In Clinic
 - *Adult/Child /Travel Vaccinations*
 - *HIV/STD Testing*
 - *Pregnancy Testing*

Find us online at
www.plattecountyhealthdept.com