



Communicable Disease Branch Local Health Department Monthly Webinar Key Points – April 9, 2024

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing key points that include information discussed on the monthly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important Updates

- Available online at [NC Communicable Disease Manual - Other Diseases of Public Health Significance \(ncdhhs.gov\)](https://ncdhhs.gov/nc-communicable-disease-manual)
- **New:** NCDHHS LHD Monthly Webinar 04 09 2024.pdf

Video recording: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/932635340/e5e6f32186>

Avian Influenza Update

- Provider memo on monitoring, clinical assessment, and treatment of patients with novel and variant influenza was distributed: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/flu/hpai/Provider-Memo-Novel-and-Variant-Influenza.pdf>
- NCSLPH HPAI specimen collection and shipping guidance: https://slph.dph.ncdhhs.gov/doc/NCSLPH-HPAI-Specimen-Handout_final.pdf

Tick Awareness

Governor Cooper has proclaimed April “Tick and Mosquito Awareness Month”. The Vector-Borne Disease Team has a number of activities that are geared towards promoting tick and mosquito-borne disease awareness and prevention. You can find more information on our April *Fight the Bite Campaign* activities here:

- Fight the Bite Press Release: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/2024/04/01/ncdhhs-encourages-north-carolinians-fight-bite-insect-repellant-and-other-prevention-tools-avoid>
- The Fight the Bite K – 12 Poster Artwork Contest: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/vector/contest.html>
- Tick and Tick-Borne Disease Distribution Dashboard: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/ticks/figures.html>
- Tick-borne Disease Surveillance Summaries (2024 summaries will be added by the end of April): <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/ticks/figures.html>
- NC Tick Identification Program Submission Forms: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/diseases/vector.html>

Question & Answers

Q. Any existing flu vaccine is working for humans/animals?

A. Cattle have not historically been thought to be at risk for influenza A viruses. There is no vaccine for them. The USDA is working with vaccine companies to develop a HPAI vaccine for poultry. There is currently no available human vaccine against novel influenza A viruses such as H5N1.

Q. How long is isolation?

A. Isolate until novel or avian influenza has been ruled out or, if a confirmed case of novel or influenza, until symptoms are improving (afebrile for at least 24 hours) and are no longer determined to pose an infectious risk based on consultation with CDB.

Q. Do you know when 2023 CD statistical data including TB stats will be published on the website?

A. Typically data is not cleaned and final from the previous year until June-July of the next year for CD. TB data is a little bit different and I would recommend you contact your TB nurse consultant to find out when the 2023 TB data will be published.

Q. Is mandatory Covid reporting by hospitals ending and how will this impact Covid page on website?

A. The website was updated in March to take into account the end of reporting from hospitals.

Q. Will insurance and or Medicaid cover the Jynneos vaccine for adults? Or for children with insurance? Will health depts be mandated to still provide the vaccine?

A. Insurance and Medicaid will cover the cost (although it can take some insurance companies up to 12 months to add a vaccine to their plans after an ACIP recommendation is made). If you have VFC eligible 18 year olds who are in need of JYNNEOS, you will be required to maintain stock.

Q. For the NC Tick ID program - does that test the tick for Lyme or anything? Or just identify the kind of tick?

A. The ticks are not tested for pathogens. It is identification only.

Q. Can we have a copy of the slides?

A. The slides are sent out and also on the NC CD Manual here

https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/other_diseases.html

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 024