



EPIsodes

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Eye on All Hazards

Emergency preparedness implies being ready for events you feel are likely to cross your path, like wildfires and hurricanes. The trick is to create plans and procedures for specific emergencies that can combine easily to help our community cope with those *unexpected* emergencies i.e. all hazards.

Your health department takes an all hazards approach to public health preparedness. St. Lucie County Health Department (SLCHD) in collaboration with our county, state, and community partners work all the time, behind the scenes to detect and be ready for "CBRNE" and other unannounced events. CBRNE is an acronym for **C**hemical, **B**iological, **R**adiological, **N**uclear weapons, and **E**xplosives. We continually refine and exercise preparedness plans so we can help our community address those emergencies that most people don't think about. We hope not to need to use these plans, but they need to be ready at any moment.

Bioterrorism, regardless of the underlying ideology, would be considered a biological event. A bioterrorist's goal is to cause illness or death (animal, vegetable, or human) by using naturally occurring agents like bacteria and viruses. These can be modified and spread through water, air, or in your food. Since these bacteria and viruses are already out there in nature, infections may not be immediately considered unusual. You often don't get sick right away, either. It may take several hours to days before you realize you've been exposed to something really nasty. Not only that,

but a lot of these illnesses start out with the same symptoms— fever, body aches, headache, and maybe a cough and/or nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Early detection of unusual numbers of people getting sick with the same thing and/or a bunch of people getting sick during a short period of time can be vital clues hinting that there is a bigger problem. SLCHD surveillance and disease control looks at the *numbers* and *types* of emergency room visits and poison center calls, and continuously monitors the information net shared by our counterparts statewide. This way, SLCHD can pick up on these clues early and communicate alerts with our partners. Having more eyes on the lookout will enhance community awareness and help save lives.

There are three categories of bioterrorism agents: A (first priority e.g. anthrax or smallpox); B (second priority e.g. ricin or bacterial toxins); and C (third priority e.g. new diseases). For more information and general fact sheets on bioterrorism agents, please go to the CDC's website:

- <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/overview.asp>
- <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/factsheets.asp>

For additional resources on All Hazards Preparedness, please go to these pages:

- <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>
- <http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/>
- <http://www.ready.gov/>



St. Lucie County Disease Summary

- All cases of malaria and dengue in our county were imported
 - ⇒ Check for any travel advisories for your destination
 - ⇒ Use appropriate mosquito protection, prevention and control measures
- Remember, you can get brucella by:
 - ⇒ Eating unpasteurized milk, cheese, and/or ice cream
 - ⇒ Breathing in the bacteria in a lab or around herds/stables/abattoirs
 - ⇒ Herdsmen/hunters should use rubber gloves when they dress their kills or handle carcasses, hides, placentas

MERLIN Registry System*
Year to Date Incidence of Selected Diseases
1 Jan 2011– 31 Dec 2011
St. Lucie County & FL comparison

	<u>St. Lucie County</u>		<u>State of Florida</u>	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Central Nervous System & Invasive Diseases				
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE (INVASIVE DISEASE)	2	3	233	191
MENINGITIS (BACTERIAL, CRYPTOCOCCAL, MYCOTIC)	5	2	192	183
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE	1	1	57	63
STREP PNEUMONIAE, INVASIVE DISEASE, RESISTANT	21	14	644	816
STREP PNEUMONIAE, INVASIVE DISEASE, SUSCEPT	8	6	680	693
STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE, INVASIVE GROUP A	4	1	248	268
Hepatitides				
HEPATITIS A	1	0	112	178
HEPATITIS B (+HBsAg IN PREGNANT WOMEN)	23	9	482	438
HEPATITIS B, ACUTE	9	4	277	315
HEPATITIS B, CHRONIC	69	46	4703	4315
HEPATITIS C, ACUTE	8	6	101	105
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC	345	265	23949	22738
Enteric Diseases				
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	29	7	2397	1211
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	19	11	438	408
CYCLOSPORIASIS	4	0	61	63
ESCHERICHIA COLI, SHIGA TOXIN PRODUCING	3	2	430	239
GIARDIASIS	14	14	1277	2182
SALMONELLOSIS	76	80	5972	6282
SHIGELLOSIS	11	2	2,656	1,213
VIBRIO ALGINOLYTICUS	2	0	50	40
VIBRIO CHOLERAЕ TYPE O1	1	0	24	5
VIBRIO PARAHAEMOLYTICUS	0	1	28	36
Vaccine Preventable Diseases				
MEASLES	0	0	8	1
MUMPS	1	1	29	21
PERTUSSIS	0	3	313	328
VARICELLA	26	6	865	977
Vector Borne & Zoonotic Diseases				
ANIMAL BITE (PEP FOR RABIES)	75	45	2420	2113
DENGUE FEVER	4 (imported)	2	77	194
LYME DISEASE	1	2	145	92
MALARIA	4 (imported)	1	99	139
RABID ANIMALS	4	3	120	130
WEST NILE VIRUS (NEUROINVASIVE)	0	0	20	9
Others				
BRUCELLA	1	0	11	9
CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING	5	4	106	196
CIGUATERA	2	0	48	20
LEAD POISONING	13	10	822	1002
LEGIONELLA	0	1	192	180

*Data in MERLIN reports are provisional,
based on cases entered by county health departments
and are not considered official data