

# MONTANA LABORATORY SENTINEL

Update from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau (800) 821-7284 [www.lab.hhs.mt.gov](http://www.lab.hhs.mt.gov)

## NEW FACE IN LABORATORY PREPAREDNESS

As of 8/12/13, Eric Bruder has taken over the position of Laboratory Biopreparedness Specialist. Eric received a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of WI-Madison, a M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences from the University of WI-Milwaukee, and a M.T. (AAB) certification. Eric worked in the Endocrine Research Laboratory at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI for 16 years. During his tenure he supervised the high-complexity testing performed and helped maintain the laboratory's CAP accreditation. Eric also took part in the laboratory's NIH-funded research investigations. Using an animal model of premature birth, his research examined the effects of hypoxia on neonatal physiology, with a focus on the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. Eric also examined the biochemistry of adrenocortical tumors obtained from patients with clinical manifestations of both cortisol and aldosterone excess. He has over 25 peer-reviewed publications and has presented his work at various national meetings. After getting married on Lake MacDonald in 2005, Eric and his wife have longed to return to the mountains and beauty that Montana possesses. Now, with a 4-year-old daughter, a 19-month-old son, and one dog in tow, the Bruder family is fulfilling their dream. Eric is looking forward to bringing his laboratory expertise to the state of Montana. He is excited to begin working with the state's clinical laboratories and aims to expand and improve the biopreparedness program. Eric can be contacted by telephone at 444-0944 or by e-mail at [ebruder@mt.gov](mailto:ebruder@mt.gov).



## REMEMBER THESE??

These "white boxes" were distributed in 2006 so that facilities could ship unknown substances or other specimens/samples of possible terror-related origin. Since then, MT LSB has implemented a new standardized kit for unknown substances. The Chemical and Biological Agent Transport Kit (CBAT; pictured right) has been distributed to each jurisdiction's public health and emergency preparedness contact and to each regional HAZMAT team.



As a result of this change, the intent of the "white boxes" is solely for the referral of blood and urine specimens collected PER CDC DIRECTION, for rapid toxic screening. Specimens would be collected if patients presented to clinics and emergency rooms with symptoms that were suspicious of regional chemical exposure that could be terror-related.

Each jurisdiction and tribe has an all-hazards transport plan that describes the use of the CBAT kits, where they are located, and how they should be transported to MT LSB in the event of a public health emergency. We encourage you to network with your local health department to discover how you can help each other should these types of events occur. Additional resources on chemical exposures can be found on the CDC's [website](#).

## CULTURE REFERRAL TO MT LSB

In late 2011, the Montana Public Health Laboratory distributed screw-top containers to transport standard-sized petri plates containing cultured isolates for referral or confirmation to MT Public Health Laboratory. This is to ensure cultures are transported in a rigid outer container, per shipping regulations.

Please do not stockpile the containers or use them for shipment to other reference laboratories as we cannot ensure their return. If the containers are used as intended, we should not have large requests to fill, and we should always have replacements available. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

If you have questions about specimen collection or transport, or would like to order a container, please contact the Public Health Laboratory toll free at 800-821-7284.



## Continuing Education...

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) offers quality, cost-effective laboratory continuing education at your convenience. Check out the offerings on the next page of this newsletter. See all of the APHL CE offerings, including National Laboratory Training Network free courses, on their [website](#).

# Association of Public Health Laboratories 2013 Fall Webinars

Register your site online at [www.aphl.org/webinars](http://www.aphl.org/webinars)

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) webinars offer convenient, effective training your staff can complete almost anywhere. Registration fees start at just \$115 per site per webinar, with access to the Web-archived program for six months. Or register for the Gastroenteritis Series at a discounted price – whatever works best for your budget and your schedule. Each webinar allows unlimited attendance at your site and offers continuing education credits for all participants.

## APHL Webinars

\$115 with access to the Web-archived program for six months

- 09/17/13: Laboratory-Acquired Infections
- 09/19/13: New OSHA Chemical Standard: What All Labs Need to Know! ←NEW
- 09/24/13: Risk Assessment in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory
- 09/25/13: Improvement to Method 1623 to Detect *Cryptosporidium* ←NEW (Environmental Labs)
- 10/01/13: 2013 Influenza Update
- 10/08/13: Bacteria That Cause Gastroenteritis: Processing, Culture and More
- 10/15/13: AST of Bacteria That Cause Gastroenteritis
- 10/22/13: Management of Patients with Bacterial Gastroenteritis
- 10/24/13: Changes in LRN Sentinel Lab Protocols ←NEW
- 10/29/13: Improving the Gram Stain
- 11/05/13: An Update on Hepatitis C Virus Diagnostic Testing
- 11/12/13: Throat Cultures: Are They Obsolete? Does One Method Fit All?
- 11/19/13: Work-Up of Relevant Fungal Isolates
- 12/03/13: Non-Molecular Methods for Detection of Infectious Diseases
- 12/10/13: Detect and Protect: Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae ←NEW

## Gastroenteritis Series

Register for an individual program at \$115

Save \$20 per webinar when you order the complete series

- 10/08/13: Bacteria That Cause Gastroenteritis: Processing, Culture and More
- 10/15/13: AST of Bacteria That Cause Gastroenteritis
- 10/22/13: Management of Patients with Bacterial Gastroenteritis

## APHL-CLSI Webinars

\$195 with access to the Web-archived program for six months

- 11/21/13: Ensuring the Quality of Blood Spots Collected From Newborns ←NEW
- 12/11/13: Enhance the Quality of Follow-Up Services for Newborn Screening ←NEW

## APHL-ASCLS Webinars

\$135 for ASCLS members and training coordinators, \$150 for others. Includes one connection to the live webinar plus unlimited access to the Web-archived program for six months.

- 09/12/2013: CLIA Summer Update on Hot Topics 2013 ←NEW
- 10/10/2013: Challenging Cases in Hematology ←NEW
- 11/14/2013: Federal Government and Health Care Reform Update ←NEW

## AUDIENCE

These programs are appropriate for laboratory professionals working in clinical, public health, environmental, veterinary, agriculture and research laboratory settings.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT** is available.

## REGISTRATION

- Registration fee is per site for one connection to the live program with unlimited attendance (and CEUs) for everyone at your site AND unlimited access (and CEUs) for 6 months.
- Register online at [www.aphl.org/webinars](http://www.aphl.org/webinars). Having difficulty with the online registration process? Please email [registrar@aphl.org](mailto:registrar@aphl.org) or call 240.485.2727 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ET.



8515 Georgia Ave, Suite 700  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Phone: 240.485.2727

## Can't do webinars?

Then you can still do the program as a Teleconference. Just call into the phone line and follow along with the speaker's presentation.

## In case you missed it...

All of our webinars are archived on the Web for six months from the original date of the program. View the Web-archived section of [www.aphl.org/webinars](http://www.aphl.org/webinars) for a full course listing.

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Department of Continuing Education and Training sponsors educational programs on critical issues in laboratory science.

For a complete list of courses, visit:

[www.LaboratoryTraining.org](http://www.LaboratoryTraining.org)

## Your Lab Training Partner



[www.LaboratoryTraining.org](http://www.LaboratoryTraining.org)



## Montana Communicable Disease Weekly Update

Release date: 8/23/2013

### DISEASE INFORMATION

**Summary – MMWR Week 33 - Ending 8/17/2013** Preliminary disease reports received at DPHHS during the reporting period August 11–17, 2013 included the following:

- **Vaccine Preventable Diseases:** Hepatitis B, acute (1), Pertussis (11)
- **Invasive Diseases:** (0)
- **Enteric Diseases:** Campylobacteriosis (3), Cryptosporidiosis (6), Giardiasis (5), Salmonellosis (4), Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* [STEC] (1), Shigellosis (1)
- **HIV Disease\*\*:** (0)
- **Other Diseases:** (0)
- **Animal Rabies:** (1, bat )
- **Travel Related Conditions:** Lyme Disease (1)

\*\* A case is included if a new confirmatory test or report was received by DPHHS. Cases include both persons who were newly diagnosed and persons newly reported in Montana who may have been diagnosed in another state or country.

*NOTE: The attached reports have multiple pages reflecting the following information: (1) communicable diseases YTD; (2) cases just this past reporting week; (3) clusters and outbreaks; and (4) a quarterly HIV/STD summary.*

### HOT TOPICS

**Shigella sonnei:** Shigellosis can be a serious disease as is indicated by the percentage of individuals hospitalized. Please be aware of how quickly this can get away from us (2011 outbreak). With school starting soon, we all need to be very alert.

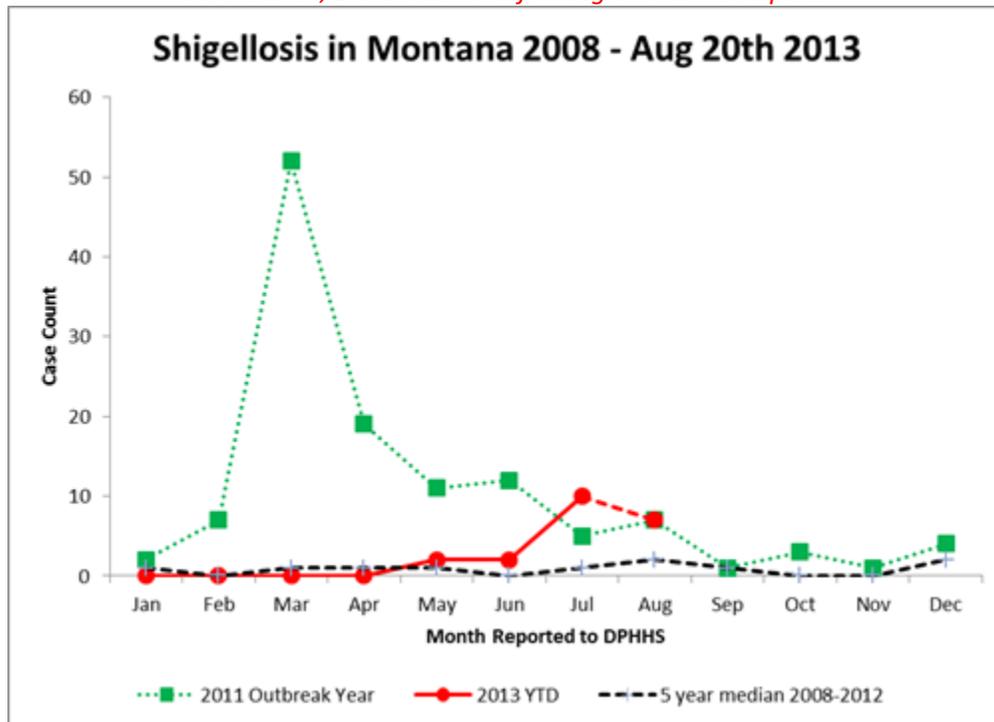
Data Summary (August 20, 2013)

Total case count Shigellosis in Montana 2013: **21**

Total case count associated with 1308MTJ16-1: **19**

- 31% have been hospitalized
- 68% are female
- 42% are < 20 years old

Please note, Data collection for August is not complete



DPHHS is closely monitoring this cluster and is working with affected jurisdictions on monitoring and investigation the cluster. No additional testing is required at this time; however, providers should use their discretion when a clinical case of shigellosis presents at their office. Here in the next week or so, and working with the Montana Office of Public Instruction, we will be sending out messaging with a focus on control of infectious and vaccine preventable diseases, targeting school aged children.

**West Nile Virus (WNV): West Nile Virus (WNV):** Positive mosquitoes have been confirmed in Cascade, Teton, Prairie, Sheridan, Blaine, Phillips, Hill, and Lewis and Clark counties. Mosquito pool trapping/sampling/testing is being performed across the state of Montana until mid-September. As of August 20, 554 counties in 43 states and the District of Columbia have reported WNV activity to ArboNET for 2013, including 27 states with reported WNV human infections (i.e., disease cases or viremic blood donors) and 16 additional states with reported WNV activity in non-human species only (i.e., veterinary cases, mosquito pools, dead birds, or sentinel animals) [Figure 1].



The MT DPHHS West Nile Virus website has been updated ([DPHHS West Nile Virus](#)) and a press release has been put out this week (attached). Please contact Joel Merriman, MT DPHHS WNV Coordinator, at 406-444-0274 if you have additional questions or concerns. Thank you.

### **INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Quarter 2 2013 Reconciliation Reports:** Reconciliation reports for the second quarter of 2013 were sent out on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Remember that the reports are only available on ePass for 15 days so please download your report as soon as you can. Once you download your report from ePass, please review the line list of cases for accuracy. Make any changes (including filling in the blank fields if possible) in a different color and return by ePass to [sanderson2@mt.gov](mailto:sanderson2@mt.gov). Remember to save the report to your computer as you will need the data on tab 2 (“completeness”) for your next PHEP progress report. Please have your reconciliation completed by August 30, 2013. If you have any questions please call Stacey Anderson (444-3012.) Thank you for your work to keep our state numbers timely and accurate!

**Sharepoint Training (PHEP):** Training for the new Sharepoint site that will replace the TCC will be available 10 times over the next four weeks. Please have staff who need it attend one of these webinar based trainings. Information on this and other training can be found at the training events schedule website <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/training.shtml>

### **24/7 AVAILABILITY**

The Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDEpi) Program is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, primarily to assist local health jurisdictions. Local providers should call, including after normal business hours, their local health jurisdiction. The CDEpi 24-hour line is available as a back-up to the local health jurisdiction’s 24-hour line. If you need CDEpi assistance, please call 406.444.0273. Phone calls to this number outside of normal business hours will be answered by the answering service. The answering service will immediately forward the message to CDEpi, and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Local health jurisdictions, please ensure that your local providers have your 24/7/365 contact information. And please inform CDEpi or the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program of updates to your required 24/7 contact information.

***This update is produced by the Montana Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program. Questions regarding its content should be directed to 406.444.0273 (24/7/365). For more information: <http://cdepi.hhs.mt.gov>***