

03/24/2014

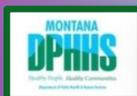
PHYSICIAN LABORATORY

Updates from the MT
Laboratory Services

Bureau

800-821-7284

www.lab.hhs.mt.gov



Updated Newborn Screening Reports

We are in the process of changing the units in which newborn screening phenylalanine and PKU monitors results are reported. This change will align Montana's newborn screening units with those used elsewhere in the nation, and with CDC reporting units. We have previously reported our phenylalanine results in mg/dL and will be changing to umol/L. The mathematical factor for this conversion is 60.6, so results will look a lot higher than previously. Our reports will reflect our new normal ranges.

This change was undertaken to enable easier comparisons with out of state reports. Please contact the newborn screening program if you have any questions or concerns at 406-444-3040 or 406-444-0984.



Call for Data

We are hoping to obtain 2013 antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) data from a significantly greater number of laboratories. If you did not receive the 2013 AST Tool or have any other questions or concerns, please contact Eric Bruder in the MT Public Health Laboratory (Ph: 444-0695; E-mail: ebruder@mt.gov).

Microscopy: Free Continuing Education Available on [CDC-Train](#)

Basic Microscopy: Course One of the Basic Microbiology Curriculum
Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Laboratory Training Branch

Description: To function effectively in a microbiology laboratory, laboratorians must have a basic knowledge and understanding of the components, setup, procedures, and care and maintenance of a brightfield (compound) microscope. This eLearning course will instruct participants on the importance of a correctly setup brightfield microscope for the identification of microorganisms.

Audience: New or existing public health laboratorians, who have a science background, are entering or reentering the microbiology field and who need training in basic microscopy principles and techniques essential for performing job requirements.

Routine Microscopy Procedures: Course Two of the Basic Microbiology Curriculum
Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Laboratory Training Branch

Description: This eLearning course is designed to familiarize laboratorians with routine microscopy procedures used in the microbiology laboratory. Laboratorians will explore the required steps for a smear preparation as well as the requirements for preparing and interpreting the results of Gram stains, wet mounts, potassium hydroxide (KOH), and India Ink procedures.

Audience: New or existing public health laboratorians, who have a science background, are entering or reentering the microbiology field and who need training in basic microscopy principles and techniques essential for performing job requirements.

Montana Communicable Disease Weekly Update

Release date: 3/21/2014



DISEASE INFORMATION

Summary – MMWR Week 11 - Ending 3/15/2014 Preliminary disease reports received at DPHHS during the reporting period March 9–15, 2014 included the following:

- **Vaccine Preventable Diseases:** Influenza hospitalizations (1), Pertussis (6), Varicella (2)
- **Invasive Diseases:** *Haemophilus influenzae* (1)
- **Enteric Diseases:** Campylobacteriosis (3), Cryptosporidiosis (1), Giardiasis (2), Salmonellosis (1)
- **Hepatitis:** Hepatitis B, chronic (1)
- **HIV Disease**:** (1)
- **Vector-borne Diseases:** (0)
- **Animal Rabies:** (2,)
- **Travel Related Conditions:** (0)

* Weekly updated Montana Influenza Summary is included as link in the Influenza section of this update.

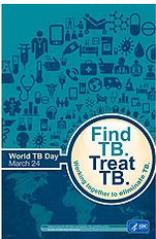
** A case is included if a new confirmatory test or report was received by DPHHS. Cases include both persons who were newly diagnosed and persons newly reported in Montana who may have been diagnosed in another state or country.

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

HOT TOPICS

World TB Day: _____

March 24 is World TB Day, an event that commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacillus that causes tuberculosis (TB). On Tuesday, March 25, FRONTLINE presents **TB Silent Killer**, an unforgettable portrait of lives forever changed by TB. The 90-minute documentary will first air on Montana PBS at 9:00 p.m., March 25. For other viewing times, check local listings at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/local-schedule/>. It will also be available online at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tb-silent-killer/>.

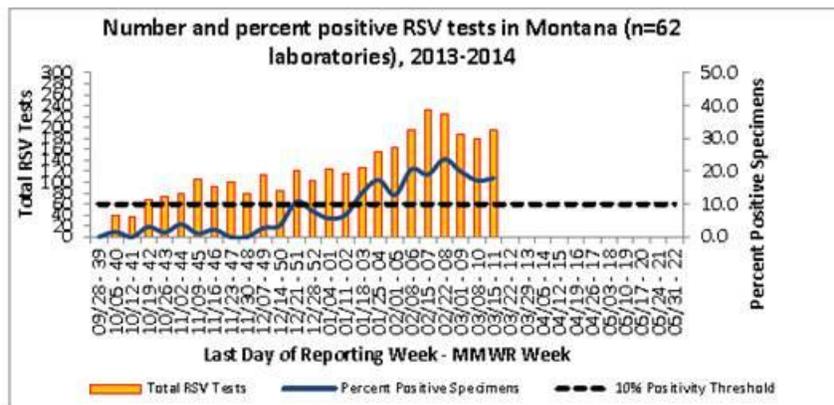


While great strides have been made to control and cure TB, people still get sick and die from TB in Montana and the United States. The number of cases reported annually in Montana has been declining, largely due to extensive public health efforts to treat every TB case using directly observed therapy, conduct extensive contact investigations for each infectious TB case reported, and identify and treat high-risk persons with latent TB infection before they develop active disease. Six cases of active TB were reported in Montana in 2013, representing the second lowest incidence rate in the United States. Refer to the [DPHHS Tuberculosis Program](#) homepage for the 2013 Montana TB surveillance report and the [CDC TB Snapshot](#) for the 2013 United States TB update.

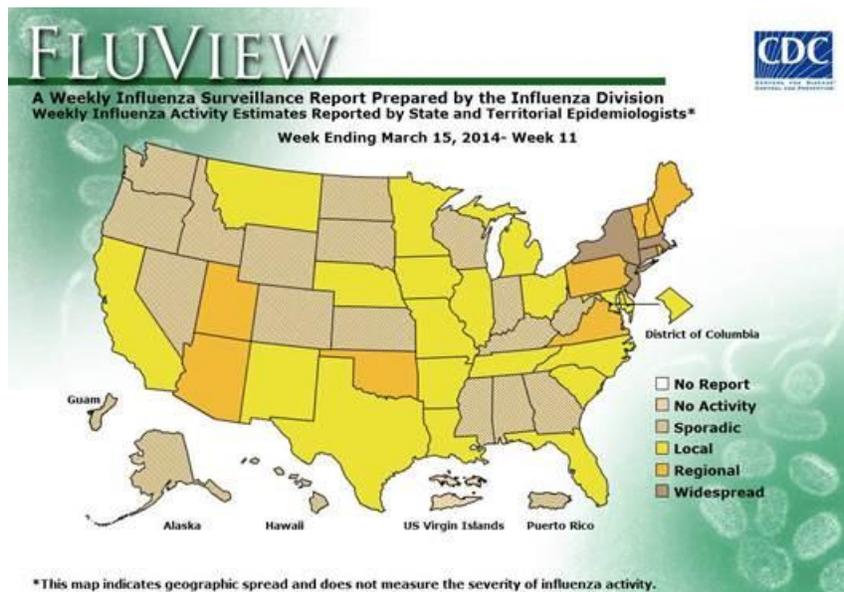
Among infectious diseases, TB remains the second leading killer of adults in the world. Much more needs to be done to eliminate TB, including the development of new and better TB drugs, diagnostic tools, and an effective vaccine. TB drug resistance remains a serious threat to our ability to treat and control TB both in the United States and abroad. Although multidrug resistant-TB (MDR-TB) is relatively rare in Montana and the United States, there are serious economic and human costs associated with MDR-TB. The treatment is long and very expensive, with no national drug treatment program available to states and patients.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV): [The 2013-2014 RSV season is at a peak in Montana.](#) All regions in Montana are at seasonal activity at this time with at least one confirmed laboratory result reported. Weekly updates and additional RSV and RSV prophylaxis information can be found at www.rsv.mt.gov.

- [The State of Montana has seen a slight increase in RSV testing volume since multiple labs have caught up on reporting over the last few weeks. We are still close to the peak of RSV season in Montana.](#)
- [RSV reporting for the 2013-2014 season will end June 1, 2014.](#)
- [The Montana Medicaid Drug Prior Authorization Program began authorizing RSV chemoprophylaxis on December 1, 2013.](#)



2013-2014 Influenza Season: The current [FluView](#) report indicates that flu activity is declining across the United States, though influenza continue to cause illness. Montana is presently surrounded by states that are geographically sporadic. It is anticipated Montana will follow suit over the next few weeks based upon declining indicators. CDC notes that NO states are reporting “high” influenza like illness (ILI) and only one (Texas) is reporting moderate activity. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO REPORT YOUR “REAL” CASES IN THE PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT. (BIG SKY PUSH EXERCISE CASES GO IN TEST.)**



*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

The most recent issue of the Montana Influenza Summary is attached and available at:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/influenza/influenzaactivity.shtml>

For more information, the CDC FluView web page can be viewed at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chicks Are In The Mail: The initial mailings of educational and prevention materials to feed stores regarding safe handling of live poultry

are going out. The second phase later this year targeting fairs will focus on a comprehensive and interactive campaign strategy to prevent illnesses.



Immunization Roadshow: The Montana Immunization Program is pleased to invite you and local immunization providers to participate in the 2014 Regional Immunization Workshops, coming soon to a location near you! The Conference will provide 5.5 Nursing Contact hours for full attendance. All workshops will start at 8 a.m. for sign-in and end at 4 p.m.

To register please complete the online registration form via the following link no later than April 1, 2014, <https://fcss.wufoo.com/forms/2014-immunization-regional-workshop-registration/>. If you need additional information, please call us at (406) 444-5580 or e-mail hhsiz@mt.gov.

Miles City	Wednesday, April 9
Billings	Thursday, April 10
Missoula	Tuesday, April 22
Fairmont (Butte)	Wednesday, April 23
Great Falls	Wednesday, April 30

24/7 AVAILABILITY

The Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDEpi) Program is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, 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>