



# Appalachian Health Focus

*Public Health: Protecting and improving your health throughout life.*

**Disease Report  
2004**

**Issue I**

**2004 Year in Review**

**January 31, 2005**

## ADHD Proudly Presents Epidemiology Newsletter

Diagnosis	Code	Cases
AIDS	950	1
Camphylobacter	50	7
Chlamydia	200	90
E. Coli	53	3
Enterococci	58	8
Ehrlichiosis	571	1
Gonorrhea	300	8
Hepatitis A, Acute	60	0
Hepatitis B, Carrier	115	5
HIV	900	2
HME	572	1
Legionellosis	18	1
Lyme Disease	51	3
Menningococcal	27	1
Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever	35	4
Salmonellosis	38	16
Shilgellosis	39	1
Syphilis-2nd	720	1
Syphilis-neur	760	1
Tuberculosis	*TB	3
Whooping Cough	47	2

The Appalachian District Health Department is excited to launch a new communicable disease newsletter to the High Country. This quarterly report will focus on news you can use and will be directed towards physicians, mid-level providers and nurses working in local health care settings. The information presented in each issue will be appropriate for the season and will reflect current issues facing the public.

As you know, the Appalachian District includes **Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga Counties**. The health department in your county strives to not only meet the ever-

changing needs of the public but also to serve as a valuable resource to our health care providers, especially in the area of communicable disease prevention, surveillance and investigation. Each issue of Appalachian Health Focus will detail important public health reminders, relevant updates and other valuable resources to help promote public health. If at any time you have questions, concerns or topic ideas for this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact Heather Herman or Candice DuVernois at the Watauga County Health Department at 828-264-

### Alleghany County Health Department

157 Health Services Road  
Sparta, NC 28675  
(336) 372-5641  
(336) 372- 8813 Business  
(336) 372-7793 (Fax)

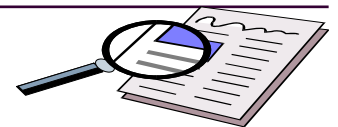
### Ashe County Health Department

P.O. Box 208  
Jefferson, NC 28640  
(336) 246-9449  
(336) 246-8163 (Fax)

### Watauga County Health Department

126 Poplar Grove Connector  
Boone, NC 28607  
(828) 264-6635  
(828) 264-4995 Environmental  
(828) 264 -4997 (Fax)

## Numbers, Numbers, Numbers....



As a primary feature of interest, each edition of the Appalachian Health Focus will contain a chart of all the communicable diseases reported in Alleghany, Ashe, and Watauga Counties for the quarter proceeding the month of publication. The total numbers you see reported will reflect a DISTRICT total. If you have a specific area of concern and would like to know your county's specific count, please contact your local communicable disease nurse. For your convenience, contact information is included on the back of this newsletter. In addition to the total number of disease cases, the chart will also include the applicable reporting code for each disease. Diseases are listed alphabetically and this chart will appear on page one of every issue. Together we can work to reduce the spread of communicable disease.

## **Public Health Law Reminder:**

### **Consider this....**

North Carolina Communicable Disease Control Law mandates that certain diseases are reportable. There are currently 68 reportable diseases in the state of North Carolina, some within 24 hours and some within 7 days but all must be reported by the physicians or mid-level provider diagnosing the disease. To obtain a list of reportable diseases, log on to <http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/gcdc/manual/toc.html> or contact the local health department communicable disease nurse through the numbers listed at the bottom of your newsletter.

The mechanism for conveying this information to the state is the NC Communicable Disease REPORT CARD. This card must be completed as thoroughly as possible and sent to the following address:

#### **For Gonorrhea/Chlamydia:**

DEHNR  
Attn: Pam Shumaker  
585 Waughtown Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27107-2241

#### **For all other diseases:**

NC Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health  
General Communicable Disease Control  
1902 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1902



Bear in mind that reporting is compulsory. If you need additional report cards or assistance in completing the report cards, do not hesitate to contact the local health department. Our goal is to prevent the spread of communicable diseases and reduce patient suffering whenever possible.

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## **State Fair E. Coli Outbreak Update:**

As you know, the big epidemiology news story of 2004 for North Carolina was the outbreak of E.Coli at the state fair. In summary, after extensive environmental testing and genetic fingerprinting, epidemiologists have determined the cause of the outbreak to be contact with animal feces at the Crossroads Farm Petting Zoo. A total of 108 likely E.Coli cases were reported from this outbreak; 43 of these were confirmed. Of the cases confirmed with lab testing, 33 had identical genetic fingerprints which matched samples taken from the petting zoo site. The outbreak strain was not found in other areas of the fairgrounds. More information about the investigative report is available online at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us>.

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## **Flu Vaccine Restrictions Expanded by CDC**

## **Did You Know?!**



**Effective January 24, 2005**, the Center for Disease Control has removed all restrictions on flu vaccine administration. The health departments still have vaccine supply at this time and will continue vaccinating patients as supplies last. Contrary to popular belief, it is not too late to get the vaccine! While current surveillance indicates that the flu season has not yet peaked, there has been a steady increase in reported flu cases since the week of Dec.25. Lab confirmed flu cases have been reported in 45 states. The viruses identified so far have been well matched antigenically to this seasons flu vaccine. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5401a6.htm>

The word, INFLUENZA, is Italian, derived from the Medieval Latin word, "influentia", so called apparently from the belief that epidemics were due to the influence of the stars.

Source: <http://dictionary.com>

## **Flu Fact: ADHD administered 6,843 flu vaccines in 2004!**

### **Communicable Disease Nurse in Your Area**

#### **Alleghany County**

Eva Wooten, RN,  
336-372-5641

#### **Ashe County**

Candy Gambill, RN  
336-246-9449

#### **WatagaCounty**

Sandy Hagler, RN  
828-264-6635

The communicable disease nurse in your area will be more than happy to assist you.

**Daniel Staley, MS**  
**Health Director**

**Ken Richardson**  
**Chair, Board of Health**