



# Florida Department of Health in Broward County

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Epidemiology Fax (954) 467-4870

HIV/AIDS (954) 467- 4700 Ext. 5560

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# Communicable Disease Monthly Newsletter

## A Monthly Epidemiology and Monitoring Report

August, 2018

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### Disease Summary

In July, a total of 437 cases of various diseases were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Among them, there were thirty-one cases of campylobacteriosis, twenty-eight cases of shigellosis, three cases of acute hepatitis B, ten cases of acute hepatitis C, twenty-eight cases of possible rabies exposure, one case of mumps, six cases of Varicella, and one case of vibriosis (*Vibrio vulnificus*).

### Food Recalls

There were two food recalls reported in Florida for the month of August 2018.

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
World Organix, LLC	Various products	8/13/2018	High Microbial Loads
Zakah Life	Kratom	8/14/2018	Salmonella

[Click here to visit the food recalls search page](#)

All data are provisional

# Merlin Reportable Disease Surveillance

**Table 1 . Provisional Cases\* of Selected Notifiable Disease  
Broward County, Florida, August 2018**

	BROWARD				FLORIDA			
	August		Cumulative (YTD)		August		Cumulative (YTD)	
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
<b>A. Enteric Infections</b>								
Campylobacter	31	40	200	181	507	440	3332	2958
Cryptosporidiosis	5	2	20	24	76	74	389	309
Ecoli, STEC	11	4	68	47	93	69	614	439
Giardiasis, Acute	11	10	67	64	121	97	745	683
Salmonellosis	81	88	390	394	857	708	4093	3644
Shigellosis	28	10	168	79	117	187	1016	902
<b>B. CNS Disease &amp; Bacteremias</b>								
Strep Pneumoniae: Drug Susceptible	4	0	50	33	17	11	274	226
Strep Pneumoniae: Drug Resistant	1	3	22	26	13	8	161	163
<b>C. Viral Hepatitis</b>								
Hepatitis B, Acute	3	3	51	39	75	67	582	494
Hepatitis B: Pregnant women	25	6	89	65	41	47	273	326
Hepatitis C, Acute	10	2	46	17	120	35	458	270
<b>D. Vector Borne and Zoonoses</b>								
Rabies, Possible Exposure	28	21	166	122	367	326	2767	2233
Zika, NON CONGENITAL	3	4	13	36	8	37	130	264
Dengue	2	1	6	1	5	2	18	15
<b>E. Others</b>								
Legionella	10	4	55	30	63	53	391	298
Mumps	1	0	40	6	10	23	127	66
Pertusis	0	5	3	18	40	43	228	268
Varicella (chicken pox)	6	7	78	71	69	41	553	447
Vibriosis (alginolyticus)	1	1	7	1	13	4	45	41

\* Confirmed, Probable, Suspect and Unknown Cases based on date of report as reported in Merlin.

Highlighted diseases/conditions are higher than expected for the current month in Broward.

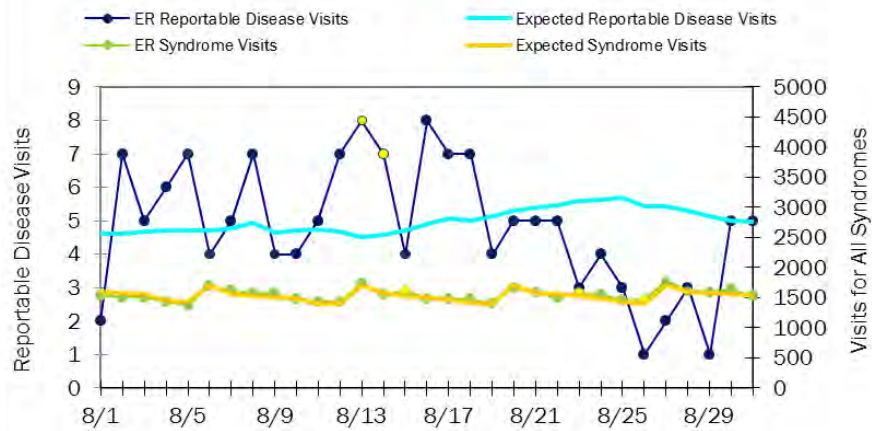
The Merlin system is Florida's state repository of reportable disease case reports, including automated notification of staff about individual cases of high priority diseases. Data are extracted using event date which is usually the date of onset of illness, and when that is unknown, event date may be date of lab report, or date of diagnosis.

**All data are provisional**

# ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance

The Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community Based Epidemics (ESSENCE) was developed by Johns Hopkins University and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. It is a syndromic surveillance tool used to monitor potential bioterrorism threats and reportable diseases. Chief complaint data is transmitted daily to the ESSENCE system from participating hospital emergency rooms. DOH-Broward monitors a total of 17 reporting hospitals in Broward County. ESSENCE groups the chief complaint data into twelve syndrome groups, including: botulism-like, exposure, fever, gastrointestinal (GI), hemorrhagic, influenza-like-illness (ILI), neurological, rash, respiratory, shock/coma, injury, and other. ESSENCE creates automatic warnings or alerts for the monitoring of the twelve syndrome groups by comparing statistical differences in observed and predicted disease based on a 28-day average. Specialized queries have also been developed to monitor Florida state reportable diseases in Broward County. When an observed value is statistically higher at the  $p < .05$  level, a yellow warning flag is generated.

**Figure 1. ESSENCE Daily Emergency Department Visits, Broward, August 2018**



**Figure 1.** There were two warnings and no alerts for E.R reportable disease visits; and three warnings and no alerts for E.R syndromic visits.

Warning - Yellow data point  
Alert - Red data point

**Table 2. ESSENCE Chief Complaint Alerts and Warnings for Reportable Disease and Chief Complaint Syndromes, August 2018**

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	None	13, 14	Botulism-like Illness	None	7, 8
Vaccine Preventable Diseases <sup>1</sup>	None	10, 11	Exposure	None	5, 16
Hepatitis A and B	None	None	Fever	None	21, 26, 28, 30, 31
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	None	None	Gastrointestinal Illness	None	8, 27
Varicella (chicken pox)	None	8, 9	Hemorrhagic Illness	None	17, 19
Vector Borne Diseases	None	None	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	27, 28, 29, 30	19, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31
Chikungunya	None	2, 17	Injury	3, 4, 13	5, 6
Dengue	None	None	Neurological	None	16, 21, 22
Encephalitis	None	None	Rash	13	None
Malaria	None	None	Respiratory	7, 8, 27, 28, 29	11, 13, 26
Zika Infection	None	None	Shock/Coma	17	7, 16
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	None	None	Other Illness	None	15, 23, 26
General Enterics <sup>2</sup>	None	None			
Vomit and Diarrhea	None	18, 27			

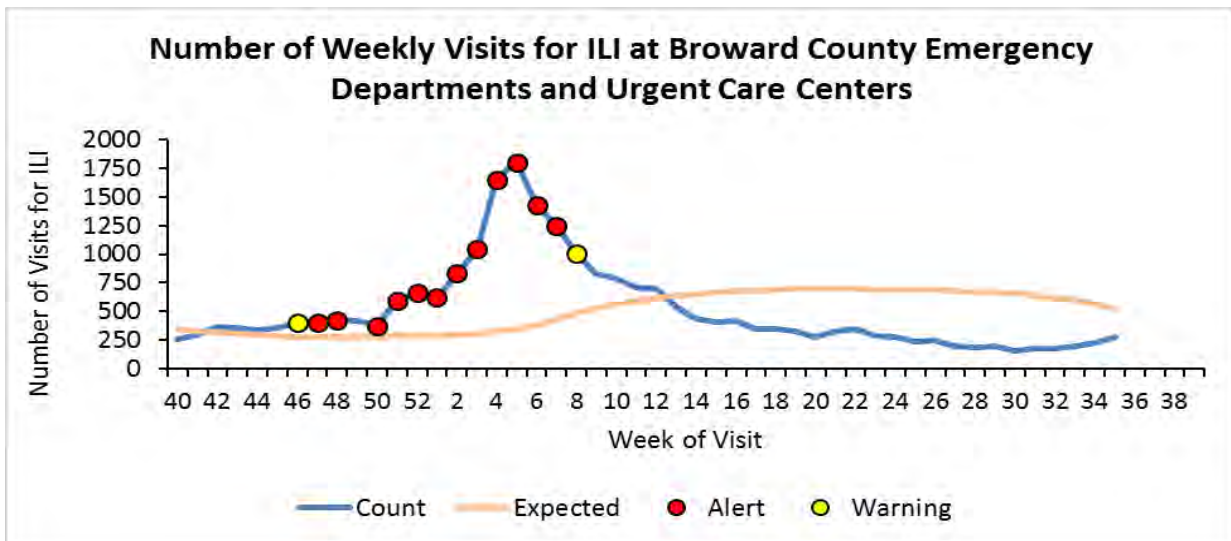
<sup>1</sup> Varicella, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio

<sup>2</sup> Cryptosporidium, Cyclospora, Shigellosis, Shigella, Salmonellosis, Salmonella, Ciguatera, Campylobacteriosis, Cholera, E.coli, and Vibrio

# Influenza Surveillance

During the month of August, Influenza and ILI activity has continued to plateau. Statewide, activity has been steady over the last few weeks. There have been no outbreaks of ILI in Broward over the last month. As seen in the chart, influenza activity peaked in week 5 for Broward County. Florida reported their state activity to have peaked in week 6. There were no positive influenza tests detected by the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in recent weeks in Broward County. Broward influenza activity remains sporadic.

Figure 2. ESSENCE ILI Visits 2017– 2018



### Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data

The number of visits to the emergency department for ILI was similar to previous weeks and was around the number of expected visits at this time for the month of July with no alerts and no warnings (Fig. 2). The percent-age of emergency department visits due to ILI was staying around the same.

### Influenza Prevention Recommendations

Florida Department Health in Broward County recommends that everyone take precautions to prevent the spread of influenza. The flu is a contagious disease, caused by the influenza virus, and spreads to others when infected persons cough, sneeze or talk. Common symptoms of the flu include: fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (more common among children than adults). Influenza vaccines have protected millions of people safely for decades. The CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine as the first and best way to protect against influenza. With flu season almost around the corner it is very important to plan to get this vaccine. This recommendation is the same even during years when the vaccine composition (the viruses the vaccine protects against) remains unchanged from the previous season. Everyone **6 months and older** is encouraged to get vaccinated against the flu even if they got vaccinated last season.

### Other recommendations include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick, keep sick children home and check with a health care provider, as needed.
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or other personal items.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, if possible.

\*For more information, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

All data are provisional.



## Tuberculosis

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County Tuberculosis Control Program provides coordinated care to persons with active TB disease, their close contacts and other persons at high risk for latent tuberculosis infection. Additionally, the TB program provides community healthcare and non-healthcare provider training and technical assistance related to TB control and prevention, and assure accurate case reporting through TB surveillance activities.

**Table 2. Tuberculosis (TB) Indicators, 2018 year to date through August 31st, 2018**

<b>Number of new TB infections</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Number of new TB infections in US-born persons</b>	<b>9 (20.5% of all new 2018 TB infections)</b>
<b>Number of new TB infections in foreign-born persons</b>	<b>35 (79.5% of all new 2018 TB infections)</b>
<b>Number of new TB infections with HIV co-infection</b>	<b>8 (18.18% of all new 2018 TB infections)</b>

## Perinatal / Congenital Syphilis

The Perinatal Program at the Florida Department of Health in Broward County is a comprehensive linkage, re-engagement, and adherence program specialized for HIV positive pregnant women. This program provides intensive case management to HIV positive pregnant women; engage and educate healthcare providers in the prevention of perinatal transmission of HIV; and promotes HIV prevention through social marketing, community engagement and outreach activities.

**Table 3. Perinatal/Congenital Syphilis Indicators, 2018 year to date through July 31st, 2018**

<b>Number of newborns to HIV positive mothers</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Number of cases of perinatal HIV transmission</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Percent of HIV+ pregnant women on appropriate antiretroviral regimen</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Number of congenital syphilis cases</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Number of clients enrolled in modified direct observed therapy</b>	<b>4</b>



# HIV Prevention Program

Following the directive of the State Health Office, DOH-Broward’s HIV Prevention Program aligns with Florida’s Plan to Eliminate HIV Transmission and Reduce HIV-related Deaths: also known as the Four (4) Key Components. This Plan includes:

1. Implementing routine HIV and STI screening in healthcare setting and priority testing in non-healthcare settings
2. Provide HIV testing, rapid access to treatment and ensure retention in care; Test and Treat
3. Improve access to antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP)
4. Increase HIV Awareness and community response through outreach, engagement, and messaging

Even with enhanced strategies for HIV prevention programs, meaningful community engagement and partnerships are a requisite to achieving national, state and local prevention goals. In Broward County, FL, connects gained through contracted providers, Business Responds to AIDS partners and Physicians providers provide significant partnerships and the outcomes our progress is reflected in Table 4. below.

**Table 4. HIV Prevention Partnership Indicators**

	July 2018	Year to Date
HIV Tests Conducted by Contracted Providers	2,767	19,497
Condoms Distributed by Contracted Providers	57,029	722,915
	August 2018	Year to Date
Business Responds to AIDS Visits	169	704
Physician Detailing Visits	35	114

For more HIV Prevention reports, updates, and other resources, please visit <https://browardgreaterthan.org/>

## Contracted Providers

The HIV Prevention Contracted Providers are responsible for conducting outreach, provide HIV testing, and encouraging people in their communities to know their HIV status. For clients testing reactive, the providers ensure that they are linked to medical care and have access to essential support services to help them stay in care. For individuals testing non-reactive, they provide essential support services to help individuals remain HIV-negative. Some examples of support services provided include education, counseling, behavioral interventions, support groups, condom distribution, referral and linkage services to access other essential support services that are not provided by the provider.

## Business Responds to AIDS (BRTA)

Business Responds to AIDS (BRTA) is a free public-private partnership initiative created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1992 that provides businesses of all sizes such as barbershops and clothing stores with tailored resources and tools to reduce stigma and prevent discrimination against employees living with HIV.

BRTA has three primary goals:

- 1.To increase community awareness about the impact of HIV/AIDS
- 2.To motivate residents to get tested and seek prevention, treatment, and care services
- 3.To increase the number of people who know their HIV status and are linked to appropriate care

## Physician Detailing

The purpose of physician detailing is to increase Broward County providers’ knowledge and awareness on core components that will assist in improving the health care delivery of those individuals who are at risk of HIV infection or living with HIV/AIDS. These core components are the following:

- 1, Sexual health history assessments
2. Routine HIV and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) screening in health care settings
3. Improve access to antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP)

## Broward County HIV Prevention Planning Council (BCHPPC)

HIV prevention works best when there is community involvement. BCHPPC ensures that critical HIV prevention programs are informed by and succeed in reaching Broward County’s diverse populations. Your voice, input, and support is needed to help end this epidemic. Are you ready to join us? Download the membership application (<https://browardgreaterthan.org/documents/BCHPPC-Application.pdf>), complete it and e-mail it to [jersey.garcia@flhealth.gov](mailto:jersey.garcia@flhealth.gov).





## Test and Treat

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward) and the Broward County Ryan White Part A Grantee Office are working in partnership to implement Test and Treat (T&T) throughout the Ryan White Part A system of care. T&T is a clinical program providing immediate linkage to HIV primary care and initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) at the time of HIV diagnosis or returning to care after a gap in services. The program benefits the client’s health and the community by providing initial ART while working through the issues of eligibility and linkage to ongoing HIV primary care.

Table 5. Test and Treat Program Totals: May 1st 2017 - August 29st, 2018		
<b>TOTAL NUMBER CLIENTS REFERRED</b>	<b>1404</b>	
<b>Total Enrolled*:</b>	1219	87%
<b>Newly diagnosed:</b>	546	45%
<b>Previous positives:</b>	673	55%
<b>REFUSED:</b>	34	2%
<b>INELIGIBLE**:</b>	120	9%

\*Enrolled clients: Any referred Broward County resident who receives an initial medical provider visit and receipt of antiretroviral medications post HIV diagnosis

\*\*Ineligible clients: Any individual who does not live in Broward County, is in jail, deemed HIV negative with proof of HIV-negative confirmatory test result, or deceased

## Rapid-PrEP

June 1st, 2018 commenced the start of the PrEP Program at the Broward Wellness Center, known as Rapid-PrEP (R-PrEP). PrEP is the acronym for pre-exposure prophylaxis, which is a once a day medication that can prevent the acquisition of HIV. The DOH R-PrEP program will provide comprehensive HIV counseling and testing, medical and navigation services to Broward residents in addition to PrEP medication on the same day.

Table 6. Rapid PrEP Program Totals: July 2018, August 2018		
	July	July
<b>TOTAL CLINICAL VISITS</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Total Enrolled*:</b>	175 (81%)	143 (75.3%)
<b>Private Insurance:</b>	81 (46.3%)	66 (46.2%)
<b>Patient Assistance Program:</b>	94 (53.4%)	77 (53.8%)
<b>INELIGIBLE**</b>	41 (19%)	47 (24.7%)

\*Enrolled clients: Any Broward County residents who received a 10-day starter pack from a Broward Wellness Center provider and enrolled with a PrEP navigator during their visit

\*\*Ineligible clients: Clients who either do not live in Broward County or who left after receiving their 10-day starter pack before meeting with a PrEP navigator

# Upcoming Events and Trainings

## September

Saturday September 15th

**Sistrunk Community Mega Soup**

5:00pm—8:00pm

The Megaphone Community Center

808 NW 13th Terrace

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Tuesday September 18th

**National HIV/AIDS & Aging Awareness Day**

**Active Older Adult Sexual Health Olympics**

10:00am—1:00pm

L.A. Lee YMCA

408 NW 14th Terrace

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Friday September 21st

**Black Women's Health Summit**

5:00pm—8:00pm

City of Lauderdale Lakes Educational and Cultural Center

3580 W Oakland Park Boulevard

Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311

[Click here to register](#)

Thursday September 27th

**National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

## October

Friday October 5th

**EPIC (Enhancing Prevention In Communities) Summit**

8:00am—4:30pm

Embassy Suites by Hilton Fort Lauderdale

1100 SE 17th Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

[Click here to register](#)

CME credits offered

Monday October 15th

**National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day**

## November

Thursday November 1st

**PrEP in the Transgender Community Dinner by Gilead Sciences**

Time to be determined

Texas De Brazil

2457 E Sunrise Boulevard

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Thursday November 8th

**Veterans in the Transgender Community Panel**

Time to be determined

Location to be determined

Tuesday November 20th

**Transgender Day of Remembrance**

6:30pm

The Pride Center at Equality Park

2040 N Dixie Highway

Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Wednesday November 28th

**3rd Annual Transgender Equality Awards**

Time to be determined

Stonewall Library

2157 Wilton Drive

Wilton Manors, FL 33305

