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EPI EXAMINER

A Monthly Epidemiology Report

May, 2017

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Disease Summary:

In May, a total of 388 cases of various diseases were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Among them, there were twenty-four cases of campylobacteriosis, four cases of cryptosporidiosis, eight cases of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* infection, three cases of hepatitis A, three cases of Lyme disease, six cases of legionellosis, and eleven cases of varicella (chickenpox). These were higher than the averages of the same month in the previous five years.

Food Recalls:

There were 10 food recalls reported in Florida for the month of May 2017.

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
Now Health Group Inc.	Select Ellyndale® Nutty Infusions™	05/04/2017	Listeria
U.S. Deer Antler EX. & IM., Inc.	Herbal Tea Varieties In Pouches	05/04/2017	Clostridium Botulinum
Pinnacle Foods Inc.	Aunt Jemima Frozen Pancakes, Frozen Waffles & Frozen French Toast Slices	05/05/2017	Listeria
Fourth Street Barbecue/Packing Division	Save-A-Lot Pick 5 Mix & Match Chicken & Waffle Sandwich	05/09/2017	Listeria
Kabob's Acquisition, Inc.	Meat and Poultry Products	05/11/2017	Listeria
Valley Innovative Services	Meat and Poultry Frozen Entrée Products	05/13/2017	Listeria
Global Garlic Inc.	Queso Fresco/ Whole Milk Cheese	05/17/2017	Listeria
L.A. Lucky Import & Export Inc.	L.A. Lucky Brand Basil Seeds 2.1 oz	05/23/2017	Salmonella
Caverflo.com	Caverflo Natural Herbal Coffee	05/25/2017	Undeclared Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients & Milk
Smuckers Foods of Canada Corp.	Golden Temple®, Swad®, and Maya® flour products in the U.S.	05/31/2017	E. coli 0121

All data are provisional.

Table 1 . Provisional Cases* of Selected Notifiable Disease, Broward County, Florida, May 2017

	BROWARD COUNTY					FLORIDA				
	May		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)		May		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)	
	2017	2016		2017	2016	2017	2016		2017	2016
A. Enteric Infections										
Campylobacteriosis	24	9	14.2	85	52	410	323	266.2	1622	1388
Cryptosporidiosis	4	0	1.4	17	6	32	39	38.8	154	180
E.Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing Infection**	8	3	3.6	33	22	56	47	38.6	260	223
Giardiasis, Acute	7	11	8.8	37	34	101	113	95.8	449	465
Salmonellosis	31	22	39.2	175	130	423	331	417.6	1629	1621
Shigellosis	12	13	23.6	47	49	99	81	198.6	412	324
Typhoid Fever (Salmonella Serotype Typhi)	1	0	0.6	1	3	4	1	1.6	20	8
B. Viral Hepatitis										
Hepatitis A	3	0	0	11	3	23	10	10.8	100	44
Hepatitis B, Acute	4	10	4.8	23	21	64	58	40.6	284	264
Hepatitis B, Pregnant Women	4	2	4	42	27	38	31	40.2	196	179
Hepatitis C, Acute	4	3	2	9	6	37	31	22.4	134	112
C. Vector Borne, Zoonoses										
Lyme Disease	3	0	0.2	8	4	13	6	5.2	165	33
Rabies, Possible Exposure	11	18	4.2	83	27	293	279	233.4	1293	1282
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis	1	1	0.2	1	1	11	2	1.6	22	2
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	1	4	0.8	29	25	28	48	9.6	178	165
D. Others										
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	1	0	0.2	4	6	21	11	9.6	76	103
Lead Poisoning	2	4	1.6	28	17	175	68	46.8	461	308
Legionellosis	6	1	0.8	15	7	38	13	16	161	98
Mercury Poisoning	1	0	0.2	5	0	3	4	2	17	12
Varicella (Chickenpox)	11	5	2.8	51	27	60	75	70.8	319	390

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

† Mean of the number of cases of the same month in the previous five years.

** Includes E. coli O157:H7; shiga-toxin positive, serogroup non-O157; and shiga-toxin positive, not serogrouped.

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.

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, May 2017

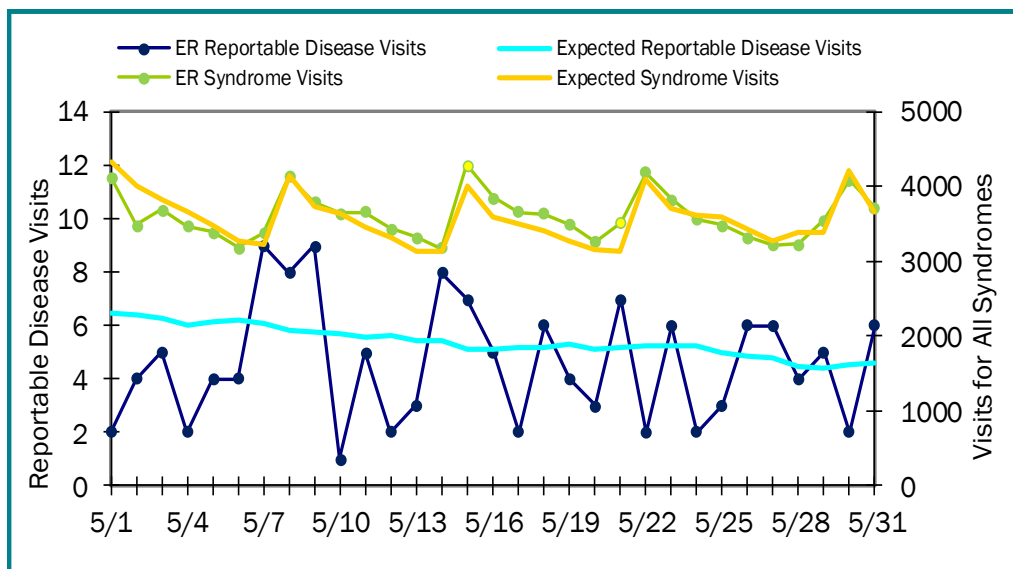


Figure 5. There are zero warnings and zero alerts for E.R reportable disease visits; and two warnings and zero alerts for E.R syndromic visits.

Warning - Yellow data point
Alert - Red data point

Table 2. ESSENCE Chief Complaint Alerts and Warnings for Reportable Disease and Chief Complaint Syndromes, May 2017

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	None	None	Botulism-like Illness	None	None
Vaccine Preventable Diseases ¹	None	17	Exposure	None	None
Hepatitis A and B	None	None	Fever	7	8, 9, 21, 23
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	None	None	Gastrointestinal Illness	15	17, 19
Varicella (chicken pox)	9	1, 7, 20, 21	Hemorrhagic Illness	None	None
Vector Borne Diseases	None	None	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	None	9, 10, 11
Chikungunya	None	None	Injury	None	None
Dengue	None	None	Neurological	None	None
Encephalitis	None	None	Rash	30	7, 23, 29, 31
Malaria	None	None	Respiratory	None	9, 11
Zika Infection	None	None	Shock/Coma	None	15
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	2	None	Other Illness	18, 31	16, 21
General Enterics ²	2	None			
Vomit and Diarrhea	None	17			

¹ Varicella, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio

² Cryptosporidium, cyclospora, shigellosis, shigella, salmonellosis, salmonella, ciguatera, campylobacteriosis, cholera, E. coli, and vibrio

During the month of May, Influenza and ILI activity decreased nationally to levels below those observed in previous seasons at this time. Statewide activity has returned to previously seen summer levels. Florida reported local Influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity with the peak of the season to have passed in week 8. There were no positive influenza tests detected by the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in recent weeks in Broward County. Broward influenza activity peaked in week 52 and remains sporadic.

Figure 2. ESSENCE ILI Visits, Broward, 2016-2017

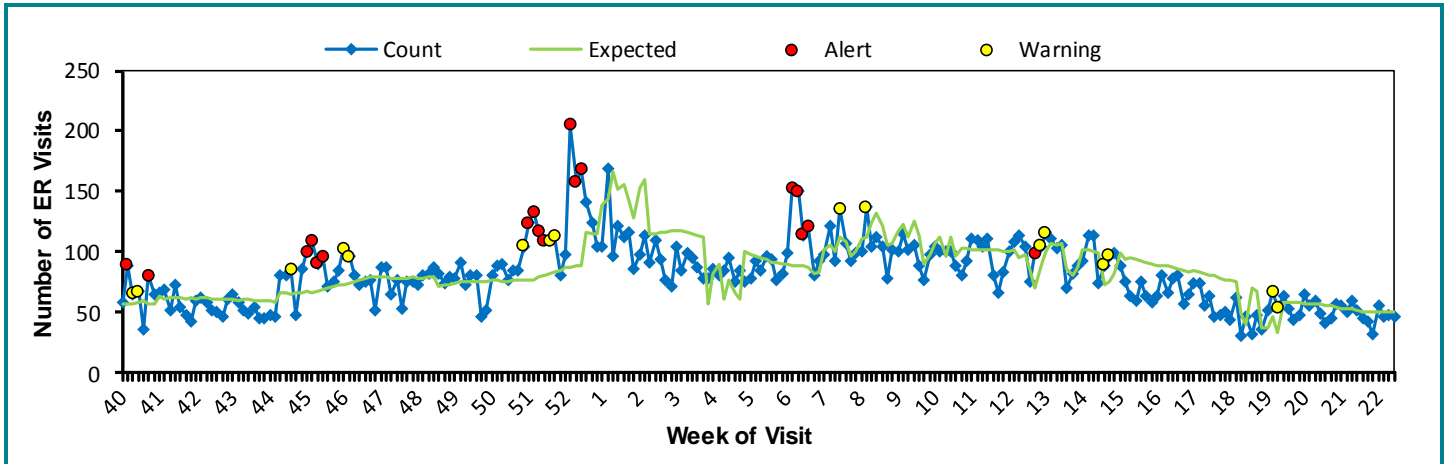


Figure 3. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2016-2017

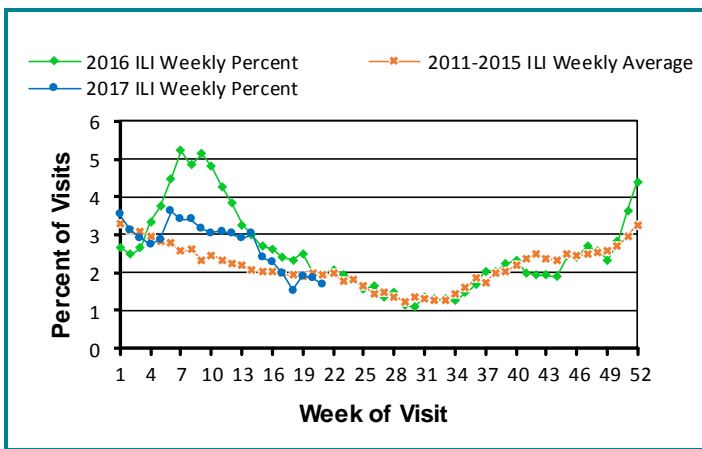
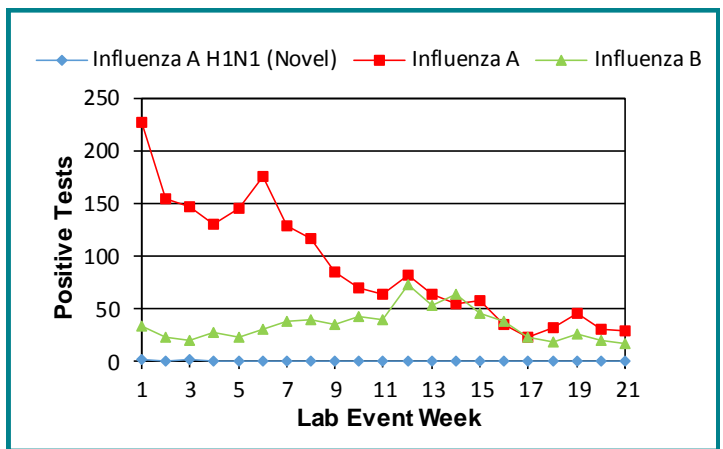


Figure 4. Merlin Reported Circulating Flu Types, Broward, 2017



Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data

The number of visits to the emergency department for ILI was decreasing and was below the number of expected visits at this time for the month of May (week 18 to week 21) with zero alerts and two warnings (Fig. 2). The percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI was decreasing, but was at similar levels to the weekly average for the last five years (Fig. 3). According to Merlin Flu Lab Reports, the number of positive tests for Influenza A has decreased and was similar to the number of positive tests for Influenza B. Positive results for Influenza B were decreasing, compared to the month of April (Fig. 4).

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. 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.

