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EPI EXAMINER

A Monthly Epidemiology Report

December, 2016

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Disease Summary:

In December 2016, a total of 465 cases of various diseases were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Among them, there were twelve cases of acute giardiasis, five cases of acute hepatitis B, seven cases of possible rabies exposure, nine cases of non-congenital Zika virus disease and infection, one case of tetanus, and seven cases of varicella (chickenpox). These were higher than the averages of the same month in the previous five years.

Food Recalls:

There were 19 food recalls reported in Florida for the month of December 2016.

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
Bakkavor Foods USA, Inc.	Trader Joes Mediterranean and White Bean & Basil Hummus	12/2/2016	Listeria
National Steak and Poultry	Ready-to-eat chicken products	12/4/2016	Listeria
FMIF Holdings, LLC	Snow Monkey Goji Berry and Cacao 8oz pods subzero superfood	12/6/2016	Listeria
Stonewall Kitchen	Limited Quantities of Cinnamon Apple, Orange Cranberry and Toasted Coconut Pancake & Waffle Mixes	12/8/2016	Salmonella
Publix	Publix Premium Pancake and Waffle Mixes	12/8/2016	Salmonella
Brand Castle, LLC	Limited Quantities of 16oz In The Mix® Monkey Bread Mix	12/12/2016	Salmonella
Fourth Street Barbecue Inc.	Cheese Club Express Mac & Cheese 4 cups and Double Takes Macaroni & Cheese 2 cups	12/12/2016	Salmonella
Shearer's Foods, LLC	All Snack Products Made With Affected Milk Powder Seasonings	12/12/2016	Salmonella
TreeHouse Foods, Inc.	Certain macaroni and cheese cup products	12/12/2016	Salmonella
Deep River Snacks	Certain Sour Cream & Onion Kettle Chips	12/12/2016	Salmonella
Arcadia Trading, Inc.	Lizard Fish	12/15/2016	C. botulinum
Old Dutch Foods Inc.	Flavored Potato Chip and Tortilla Chip products	12/15/2016	Salmonella
Houdini, Inc.	Blue Cheese Savory Twists, 7 Oz Box	12/16/2016	Salmonella
Poppies International, Inc.	Mini Eclairs and Chocolate Covered Cream Puffs	12/16/2016	Salmonella
Williams-Sonoma	Meyer Lemon Poppy Quick Bread	12/17/2016	Salmonella
Pork Rinds & Snacks, LLC	Pork Skin Products	12/22/2016	Salmonella
House-Autry Mills	House- Autry Buttermilk Cornbread Mix, Biscuit Mix, and Cheese Biscuit Mix	12/22/2016	Salmonella
Bickel's Snack Foods	Various snack products containing milk powders or sour cream	12/22/2016	Salmonella
Dieffenbach's Potato Chips Inc.	Sour Cream & Onion Kettle Chips	12/22/2016	Salmonella

All data are provisional.

Table 1 . Provisional Cases* of Selected Notifiable Disease, Broward County, Florida, December 2016

	BROWARD COUNTY					FLORIDA				
	December			Cumulative (YTD)		December			Cumulative (YTD)	
	2016	2015	Mean†	2016	2015	2016	2015	Mean†	2016	2015
A. Enteric Infections										
Campylobacteriosis	10	16	13.6	133	188	338	330	242.6	3627	3631
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	1.4	19	49	39	47	53.2	585	870
E.Coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing Infection**	4	2	3.8	68	45	53	46	34.2	655	444
Giardiasis, Acute	12	7	7.8	84	88	98	88	102.4	1135	1049
Salmonellosis	54	51	40.2	545	530	527	602	511	6321	6394
Shigellosis	4	6	13.6	118	85	95	103	139	979	2012
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias										
Meningococcal Disease	1	1	0.6	3	4	3	2	2.8	18	23
Streptococcus Pneumoniae Invasive Disease, < 6 years old:										
Drug Resistant	1	0	0.8	3	5	3	1	6.8	30	38
Drug Susceptible	0	0	1	7	4	6	4	6.8	47	38
C. Viral Hepatitis										
Hepatitis A	1	4	1.2	9	8	14	22	14.2	125	123
Hepatitis B, Acute	5	2	1.8	45	29	61	54	37.4	687	520
Hepatitis B, Surface Antigen In Pregnant Women	6	8	3.8	78	48	60	70	47.4	450	481
Hepatitis C, Acute	1	0	0.6	25	7	19	31	16.8	268	210
D. Vector Borne, Zoonoses										
Rabies, Possible Exposure	7	2	0.8	114	9	272	358	305	3311	3399
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	9	0	0	176	0	120	0	0	1293	0
E. Others										
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	1	3	1.4	7	17	32	24	17	273	270
Lead Poisoning	4	2	16.6	37	52	93	108	103.6	861	887
Legionellosis	4	1	1.8	27	34	47	27	23.8	379	320
Tetanus	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0.8	5	4
Varicella (Chickenpox)	7	6	1.2	55	62	64	45	55.2	735	741

* 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 is 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.

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 bio-terrorism 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, December 2016

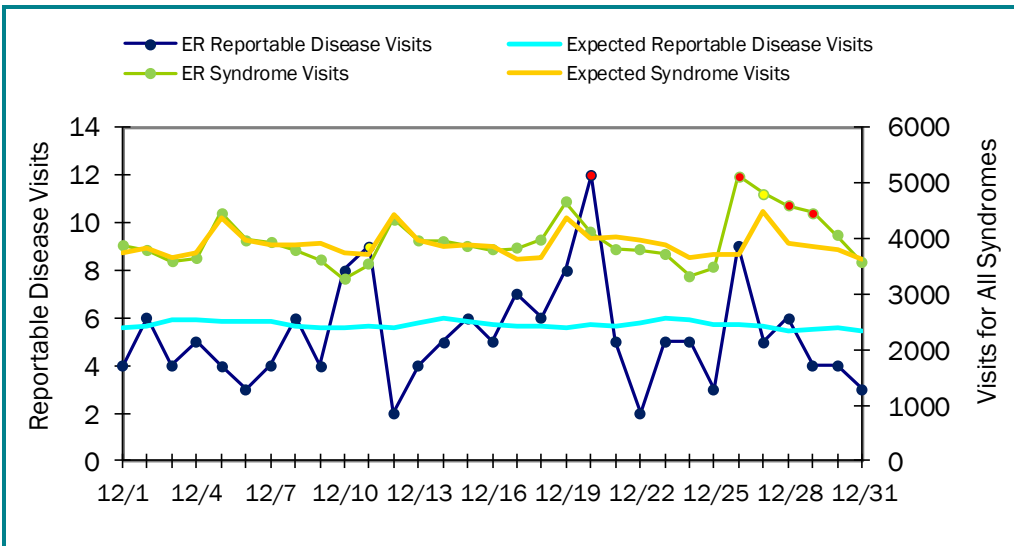


Figure 1. There are one warning and one alert for E.R reportable disease visits; and one warning and three alerts for E.R syndromic visits.

Warning - Yellow data point

Alert - Red data point

Table 2. ESSENCE Chief Complaint Alerts and Warnings for Reportable Disease and Chief Complaint Syndromes, December 2016

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	20	11	Botulism-like Illness	29	8, 19, 20, 28
Vaccine Preventable Diseases ¹	31	5	Exposure	None	19, 20, 28, 29
Hepatitis A and B	None	None	Fever	13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 28	5, 11, 12, 14, 21, 27
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	None	None	Gastrointestinal Illness	26, 28, 29	5, 19
Varicella (chicken pox)	None	11, 15, 18, 20	Hemorrhagic Illness	None	1, 26
Vector Borne Diseases	None	None	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28	1, 22, 23, 25, 29
Chikungunya	2	None	Injury	3	11, 18
Dengue	None	None	Neurological	14, 19, 20, 26, 28	None
Encephalitis	None	None	Rash	19, 26	12, 17, 18, 27, 28
Malaria	None	None	Respiratory	26, 27, 28, 29	5, 6, 19, 30
Zika Infection	1	11, 19	Shock/Coma	None	5
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	12	13, 18	Other Illness	26	28, 29
General Enterics ²	12	13, 19			
Vomit and Diarrhea	5	19, 26, 27, 28, 29			

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 December, influenza and ILI activity increased nationally to levels above the national baseline. In Florida, Influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity has increased and are similar to levels observed in previous influenza seasons. There have been no positive influenza tests detected by the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in recent weeks in Broward County. Emergency department (ED) visits for ILI have increased, and are above levels observed in previous seasons at this time. Broward flu activity is mild.

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

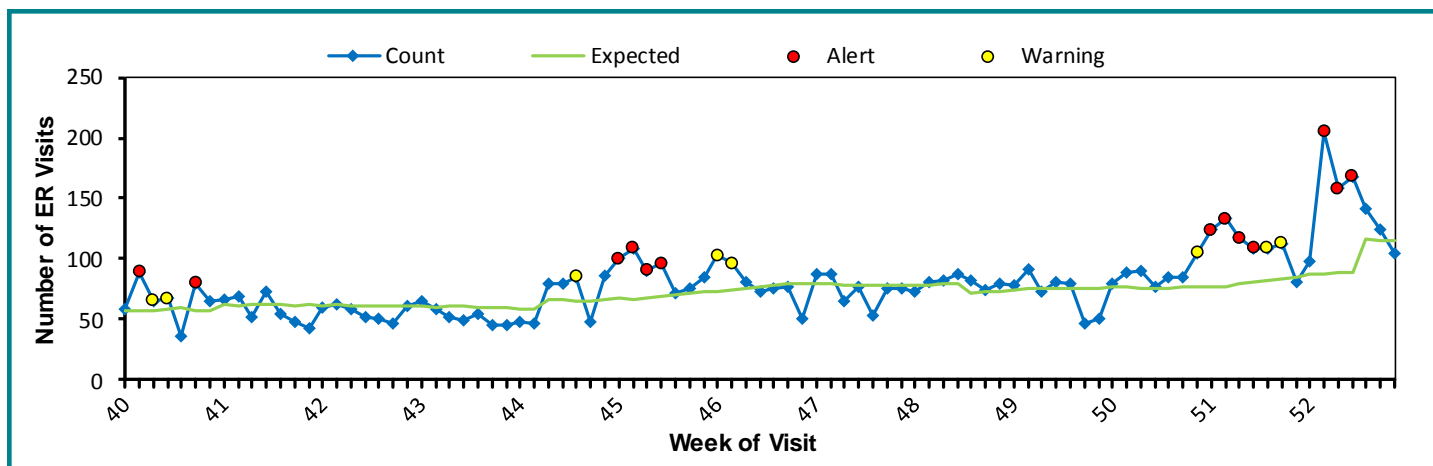


Figure 3. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2016

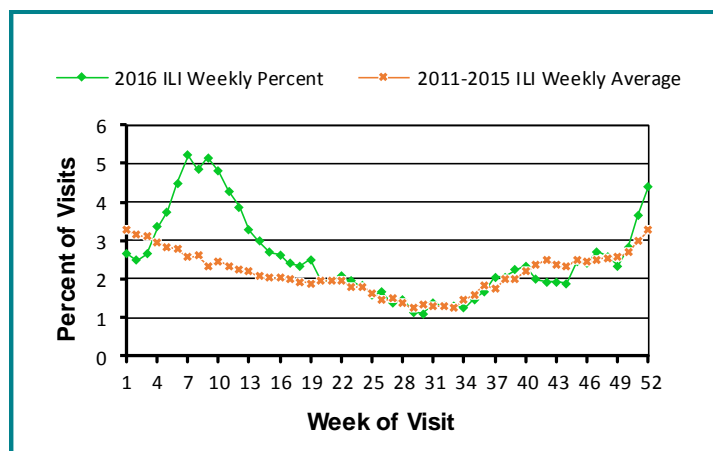
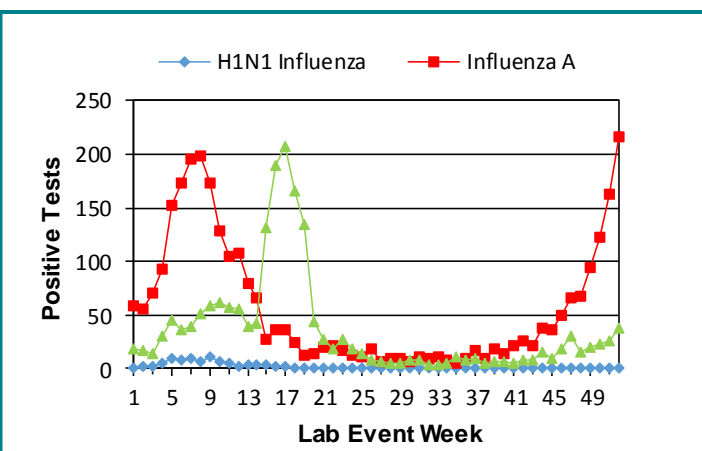


Figure 4. Merlin Reported Circulating Flu Types, Broward, 2016



Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data

The number of visits to the emergency department for ILI was increasing and exceeded the number of expected visits at this time for the month of December (week 48 to week 52) with seven alerts and three warnings. (Fig. 2). The percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI was increasing and was higher than the weekly average for the last five years (Fig. 3). According to Merlin Flu Lab Reports, the number of positive tests for Influenza A was found to be significantly higher than the number of positive tests for Influenza B (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.

