



MONTHLY MORBIDITY REPORT

EPIDEMIOLOGY

PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
OFFICE OF PREVENTIVE AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
DIVISION OF RECORDS AND STATISTICS
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INFLUENZA

Influenza activity in Louisiana is monitored by an active surveillance system on a weekly basis beginning in November and usually continues until the end of April. These semi-quantitative estimates of influenza-like morbidity are forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control for compilation along with data from the rest of the country.

Indications of an increase in activity occurred during the second week of January and peaked during the second week of February. The first laboratory confirmed case was reported by Dr. Robert Gohd's virology laboratory at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Influenza B was isolated from a 32 year old female with an onset of 12/24/85. A total of 46 cases (36 isolates and 10 paired sera) of Influenza B have been confirmed in persons ranging in age from 3 months to 88 years (mean 21.9 years). Twenty-six cases (56.5%) were reported in January and 20 cases (43.5%) were reported in February. Widespread activity occurred throughout most of the state. Schools were closed in at least two parishes because of an outbreak of apparent influenza. Frequently, the Epidemiology Section of the Office of

Preventive and Public Health Services is confronted by various school officials regarding our policy pertaining to school closures. This office does not recommend closing schools as a method for controlling an outbreak as it has not been shown to be effective.

Nationally, the winter of 1985-86 has been one of high influenza incidence. Forty-five states have reported type B virus isolates; 29 states, type A isolates; and 28 states have reported both types. Between 75% and 80% of the influenza isolates were type B, while 20-25% have been type A (H₃N₂). There has been some antigenic drift in the viruses occurring this season and next year's vaccine will contain A/Chile 1/83 (H₁N₁), A/Mississippi 1/85 (H₃N₂), B/Ann Arbor 1/86.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those physicians and health care professionals who assisted us during this influenza season in obtaining appropriate specimens for isolation. Physicians from all parts of the state participated, providing a fairly accurate assessment of the status of the outbreak.

DENGUE

Considerable press attention has recently been paid to the introduction of the mosquito Aedes albopictus into Louisiana, and the consequent potential for transmission of dengue. The following report summarizes information about dengue pertinent to the health care professional practicing in Louisiana.

INTRODUCTION

Dengue is an acute febrile illness caused by a flavivirus - related to the viruses causing yellow fever and St. Louis encephalitis - and is spread by a mosquito vector. Dengue is endemic in Asia, northern Australia, West Africa, South and Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. The last major outbreak in the United States was reported in 1945.

CLINICAL ILLNESS

The symptoms of classical dengue fever typically begin 5 to 6 days following the bite of an infective mosquito. The patient develops an acute illness characterized by fever, malaise, intense headache, retro-orbital pains, joint and muscle pains, and rash. The rash usually appears 3-4 days following onset of the fever, and may be either a generalized maculopapular or scarlatiniform eruption. Blacks frequently have no visible rash. The illness is usually associated with lymphadenopathy, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia.

Acute symptoms usually last 5 - 7 days, but complete recovery may be prolonged and associated with fatigue and depression. Classical dengue fever is almost always a self-limited illness with an extremely low case fatality rate; however, a variant known as hemorrhagic dengue fever (DHF) is associated with coagulopathy and vascular collapse. DHF has generally been confined to Asia, although cases have

occurred in the Caribbean islands.

DIAGNOSIS

Laboratory diagnosis is made by HI, CF, ELISA, or neutralization tests, or viral isolation. Two specimens (5 cc of blood or 2 cc of serum) should be obtained 14 days apart for acute and convalescent serologic testing. HI testing will be done free of charge for Louisiana physicians by the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources Virology Laboratory.

In areas where dengue is endemic (see below), the illness is frequently confused with measles (rubeola), influenza, or German measles (rubella). Fortunately serologic testing readily discriminates between these illnesses which may be indistinguishable clinically.

VECTOR

Dengue virus is carried by two types of mosquitoes which are now well established in Louisiana. Aedes aegypti, the principal vector in dengue transmission, has been present in Louisiana for some time. Aedes albopictus, however, is a probable newcomer and breeding colonies have been found in at least six parishes across the state during the past year.

According to the the New Orleans Mosquito Control Board, the Aedes albopictus has an unusual predilection for standing water sitting inside discarded tires. In Asia, where the mosquito originated, it breeds in tree holes, bamboo stumps, coconut husks, and other natural containers. Aedes albopictus has the potential for extending much farther north than the other major dengue vector Aedes aegypti. In Asia, A. albopictus has been found as far north as Beijing, China and Sendai, Japan. This is the approximate latitude of Philadelphia

and Denver. To date, A. albopictus found in the United States of America has been confined to Hawaii and the southern states as far north as Tennessee.

INCIDENCE

There have been no indigenous cases of dengue in Louisiana over the last several decades. Occasional imported cases have occurred among Louisiana residents recently returning from an area endemic for the disease - however, no secondary indigenous transmission was ever documented. On a national level, a total of 8 cases were confirmed at the Centers for Disease Control in 1985. These cases were reported from a total of 7 states. In all instances the person had recently traveled to a Caribbean Basin country (Mexico, Haiti, Virgin Islands, St. Maarten) or Asia.

CONCLUSIONS

A second vector of dengue transmission, Aedes albopictus has recently become established in Louisiana. Aedes aegypti, the primary vector, has been endemic to Louisiana for a long period of time. Fortunately, no indigenous cases of dengue fever have been documented in Louisiana, but the potential has probably risen now that two vectors are present. The greatest risk of introducing dengue into the United States remains from travelers returning from such endemic areas as Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and northern South America. Physicians are urged to consider dengue fever in the differential diagnosis of fever, myalgia and rash, particularly in patients recently returning from endemic areas.

LOUISIANA AIDS UPDATE

	CASES	DEATHS	PERCENT
JAN - APRIL, 1986	28	8	29
TOTAL, ALL YEARS (as of 4/30/86)	227	145	64

SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES

(By Place of Residence)

STATE AND PARISH TOTALS Reported Morbidity March, 1986	VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES														HEPATITIS A AND UNSPECIFIED**	HEPATITIS B	LEGIONELLOSIS	MALARIA***	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	SHIGELLOSIS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	UNDERNUTRITION SEVERE	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY	RABIES IN ANIMALS (PARISH TOTALS CUMULATIVE, 1986)
	MEASLES	RUBELLA*	MUMPS	PERTUSSIS	TETANUS	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	UNDERNUTRITION SEVERE	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY															
TOTAL TO DATE 1985	0	0	0	1	0	11	28	43	0	0	12	7	72	0	26	2	6029	274	4								
TOTAL TO DATE 1986	0	0	0	3	0	8	22	37	0	4	6	3	107	0	27	2	4222	206	4								
TOTAL THIS MONTH	0	0	0	2	0	4	10	17	0	3	3	3	15	0	16	1	1104	52	4								
ACADIA							1						2					4									
ALLEN																		6									
ASCENSION																		11									
ASSUMPTION				1															1								
AVOUELLES													1						1								
BRAUREGARD																											
BIENVILLE																				1							
BOSSIER						1									1			12	1	1							
CADDO							1	1				1		1			112	2	2								
CALCASIEU																		57	1								
CALDWELL																		1									
CAMERON																											
CATAHOULA																			2	5							
CLAIBORNE																											
CONCORDIA																											
DESOTO																											
EAST BATON ROUGE								2					1		2			51	5								
EAST CARROLL													1					3									
EAST FELICIANA																											
EVANGELINE																			3								
FRANKLIN																			2								
GRANT																											
IBERIA									1									16	2								
IBERVILLE																			2								
JACKSON																											
JEFFERSON				1		1	1	1			1				4			68									
JEFFERSON DAVIS																											
LAFAYETTE										2		1						19	1								
LAFOURCHE																		9									
LASALLE																											
LINCOLN													1					11	1								
LIVINGSTON								1										2									
MADISON							1													1							
MOREHOUSE																		13									
NATCHITOCHE																		5	2	1							
ORLEANS						1		6		1			4		2			368	15								
OUACHITA							1						2					85	5								
PLAQUEMINES													1														
POINTE COUPEE													1						2								
RAPIDES																			62	2	1						
RED RIVER																											
RICHLAND																1		13									
SABINE																		1	1	1							
ST. BERNARD															1												
ST. CHARLES								1											1								
ST. HELENA																			2								
ST. JAMES																			10								
ST. JOHN																											
ST. LANDRY								1	1									16	3								
ST. MARTIN								2											2								
ST. MARY																			5								
ST. TAMMANY								1											6								
TANGIPAHOA									1										9	5							
TENSAS																											
TERREBONNE						1												15									
UNION											1							2									
VERMILION													1						5								
VERNON																			43								
WASHINGTON								1							5				9								
WEBSTER								1			1								14								
WEST BATON ROUGE																											
WEST CARROLL																			1								
WEST FELICIANA																			16								
WINN								1					1														
OUT OF STATE																			5								

From January 1, 1986 - March 31, 1986 the following cases were also reported:

1-Cholera

* Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome.

** Includes 4 cases of Hepatitis Non A, and Non B.

*** Acquired outside United States unless otherwise stated.

SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES (By Place of Residence)

STATE AND PARISH TOTALS Reported Morbidity April, 1986	VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES					ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	HEPATITIS A AND UNSPECIFIED**	HEPATITIS B	LEGIONELLOSIS	MALARIA ***	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	SHIGELLOSIS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	UNDERNUTRITION SEVERE	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY	RABIES IN ANIMALS (PARISH TOTALS CUMULATIVE, 1986)
	MEASLES	RUBELLA*	MUMPS	PERTUSSIS	TETANUS														
TOTAL TO DATE 1985	1	0	2	2	0	15	44	57	0	0	13	10	106	0	35	2	7487	360	4
TOTAL TO DATE 1986	0	0	0	3	0	14	35	54	0	4	9	4	150	0	41	2	6045	293	6
TOTAL THIS MONTH	0	0	0	0	0	6	13	17	0	0	3	1	43	0	14	0	1823	87	2
ACADIA													1		1		6	2	
ALLEN																	11		
ASCENSION																	3	1	
ASSUMPTION																	8		
AVOYELLES											1						8		1
BEAUREGARD													1				4		
BIENVILLE																	4		1
BOSSIER							1										11		2
CADDO								2					2		1		191	7	
CALCASIEU													1				59	2	
CALDWELL																	8		
CAMERON																	1		
CATAHOULA																	1		
CLAIBORNE													1				4	2	
CONCORDIA																	2	1	
DESOTO																	3		
EAST BATON ROUGE						3		4			1	1	3		1		97	13	
EAST CARROLL							1										6		
EAST FELICIANA																	7		
EVANGELINE															1		2	2	
FRANKLIN																	1	1	
GRANT													1				2		
IBERIA								1					1				25	1	
IBERVILLE																	5	1	
JACKSON																			
JEFFERSON							2	2					2		2		102	4	
JEFFERSON DAVIS													1				12		
LAFAYETTE													1				68	2	
LAFOURCHE						1											25	3	
LASALLE													2						
LINCOLN																	14		
LIVINGSTON						1											3		
MADISON							1										1	1	
MOREHOUSE																	36		
NATCHITOCHES																	6	1	1
ORLEANS						1	2	6					13				634	19	
OUACHITA													5				78	5	
PLAQUEMINES																	1		
POINTE COUPEE																	6		
RAPIDES																	100	3	1
RED RIVER																	1		
RICHLAND																	2	1	
SABINE																			3
ST. BERNARD							1				1						8		
ST. CHARLES													1				6		
ST. HELENA																	4		
ST. JAMES																	13		
ST. JOHN								1									8		
ST. LANDRY							1						3		1		20	2	
ST. MARTIN													1				12		
ST. MARY																	6		
ST. TAMMANY																	9		
TANGIPAHOA							1						2		1		23	2	
TENSAS																	1		
TERREBONNE								1							1		50	1	
UNION							1						1				8		
VERMILION							1								2		2		
VERNON																	65	3	
WASHINGTON							1								1		9		
WRBSTER																	17	3	
WEST BATON ROUGE															2		2		
WEST CARROLL																	1		
WEST FELICIANA																			
WINN																			1
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1, 1986 - April 30, 1986, the following cases were also reported:

1-Cholera.

* Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome.

** Includes 7 cases of Hepatitis Non A, Non B.

*** Acquired outside United States unless otherwise stated.

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