

Public Health Brief

A Newsletter on Current Public Health Topics



Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

Phone 303/220-9200 • Fax 303/741-4173

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You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use or if you have additional questions, please call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

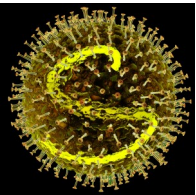
You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>

Disease Highlight: Measles contact investigation finds no new measles cases in Denver area exposure

In January 2017, Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) was notified of an unvaccinated adult in the Denver Metro area who developed a febrile rash illness after traveling internationally. IgM and PCR testing confirmed measles infection. TCHD partnered with Denver Public Health to conduct a large contact investigation associated with two medical facilities where the patient sought care while infectious and also to manage an exposed unvaccinated family member.

TCHD evaluated 163 community contacts for exposure to the measles case and to assess their measles immunity status; 160 were determined to have been exposed. One hundred forty five (91%) contacts were deemed immune to measles based on MMR vaccination history or year of birth. The unvaccinated susceptible family member was placed into voluntary quarantine, monitored daily, and did not develop measles.

Among 85 potentially exposed emergency department and urgent care staff, 84 (99%) met criteria for measles immunity by evidence of MMR vaccination or a measles titer. One health care worker without adequate evidence of immunity was excluded from work until 21 days after the exposure.



Did you know? Rabies reservoir species (RRS) in Colorado are bats, skunks, foxes and raccoons. If a bat is found inside a room with an unattended child, mentally disabled person, intoxicated person, or someone sleeping, rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is indicated if the bat cannot be safely captured and tested.



First Rabid Skunk this Season Found in Aurora

Aurora Animal Control reported a laboratory confirmed rabid skunk in a residential area on February 20, 2017. Two dogs were exposed to the skunk; both dogs were current on rabies vaccination and placed in a 45-day home observation.

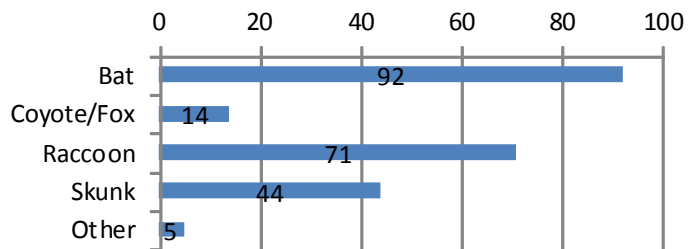
- Never handle or feed wild animals.
- Keep pets up-to-date on rabies vaccinations.
- Report all contact with wild animals to TCHD.



Animal Control and TCHD Partner to Prevent Rabies:

In 2016, TCHD received over 1,000 reports of animal bites to people and pets. Almost 65% of those reports were dog or cat bites to people and were referred to local Animal Control to implement a 10-day quarantine of the pet. TCHD investigated 104 pet bites to people when the 10-day quarantine could not be completed. TCHD investigated 226 high risk exposures of people or pets to wild animals or rabies reservoir species (see graph).

Potential Rabies Exposures to People and Pets by Animal Species, TCHD 2016



Did you know? TCHD provides on-site training for health care professionals on rabies risk assessment and when and how to administer rabies PEP. Refer to our rabies PEP poster on our website: www.tchd.org/396/Animal-Bites-Rabies

Contact Information:

Report any suspected rabies exposures to wildlife to TCHD within 24 hours so a rapid exposure assessment can occur! Call TCHD Disease Intervention Program at (303) 220-9200 After hours: (303) 461-2342 www.tchd.org