

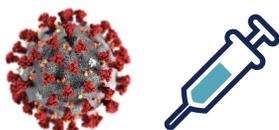
# EPI SCOPE

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN SEMINOLE COUNTY EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWSLETTER // MAY 2022 ISSUE

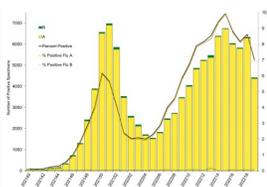
## What's Included?

Safe & Healthy Swimming Week.....	1
Lyme Disease Awareness.....	2
Hepatitis Awareness & Updates.....	2
Monthly Surveillance Data.....	3
Additional Info & Resources.....	4

## Fast Stats & Updates



COVID-19 case counts have **increased** in Seminole County in recent weeks. Of eligible Seminole County residents, **70%** have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. **Visit the [Florida Department of Health \(FDOH\) COVID-19 website](#) for more information.**



Florida, including Seminole County, is experiencing an unusual increase in influenza activity for this time of the year. It is important to educate patients on the importance of being vaccinated against influenza and to provide testing to patients with influenza-like illness symptoms (fever of at least 100.4F AND a cough or sore throat). If an outbreak of influenza is identified, it should be immediately reported to the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County at 407-665-3243. **Visit [CDC](#) or [FDOH](#) for more information.**

## SWIM SAFELY THIS SUMMER

Carley Robinson, MPH, CPH

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) observes the week before Memorial Day as National Healthy and Safe Swimming Week, the goal of which is to minimize any potential injury or illness associated with recreational water activities. In Central Florida, residents and visitors will take advantage of the many water-based attractions in the area and it is important for them to understand how they can protect themselves, and for providers to recognize and treat potential water-borne infections.



### Harmful Algal Blooms

As water temperatures continue to rise during the summer, warm and nutrient bodies of water like lakes or ponds can become ideal for overgrown algal or cyanobacteria blooms. These blooms can produce toxins which expose individuals who swallow the contaminated water or breathe in droplets. Symptoms of such an exposure can range from skin irritation, dizziness, and gastrointestinal (GI) issues. Humans and pets should stay away from bodies of water that have a foul smell, appear discolored or foamy, or had dead fish or animals washed up on the shore. If exposed to this water, rinse off with clean water immediately.

### Shigella and Cryptosporidium

*Shigella* and *Cryptosporidium* (Crypto) organisms can contaminate recreational water sources if individuals with either of these infections interact with this water source, including pools or splashpads, while they have symptoms, particularly diarrhea. The incubation period for shigellosis is typically within 1-2 days from exposure, and the Crypto incubation period is about 7 days. Both infections cause primarily GI symptoms of diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, and vomiting. Diarrhea is usually bloody with shigellosis and watery with Crypto. Patients should be discouraged from participating in any recreational water activities while ill. Recreational water should never be swallowed, and children should be taken to the restroom and/or have diapers checked regularly.

### Legionella

*Legionella* is a particular concern in Florida, due to having warmer weather and generally warmer water in local water systems. This warm water can create biofilms, which is the ideal environment to harbor *Legionella* bacteria. When these bacteria break out of the biofilm and become aerosolized (e.g., aerosols in hot tubs/whirlpool spas), they can be inhaled and cause pneumonia and respiratory illness. Older populations, the immunocompromised, and those with a history of smoking are at increased risk of infection. If patients experience shortness of breath, fever, coughing, or other respiratory symptoms after recreational water activity, they should be advised to seek medical care. Sputum Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or culture and urine antigen testing are among the most reliable tests for *Legionella*.

### Naegleria fowleri

Commonly found in freshwater, this amoeba can cause rapid and deadly infection when it enters the brain through the nose. This typically occurs when swimming or diving. Symptoms include primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) which has similar symptoms with bacterial meningitis. Symptoms appear between 1-9 days after exposure with an average of 5 days, and infection is often fatal. Reducing the risk of infection involves limiting the amount of water that enters the nose while participating in freshwater recreational activities, including the use of nose clips. **If you suspect or order a laboratory test for PAM, notify DOH-Seminole immediately at 407-665-3243 (afterhours reporting line is 407-665-3000, option 1).**

For information about Healthy and Safe Swimming week, visit the [CDC's website](#).

# LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

Tyler Weston, MPH

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month (LDAM), a great time to raise awareness and spread information on preventing Lyme disease and tick-borne diseases. Lyme disease is a multisystem disease caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *B. mayonii*. The organism is transmitted to people through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks, commonly known as deer ticks. Acute symptoms of Lyme disease include fever, muscle and joint aches, headache and an erythema migrans rash (also known as a bullseye rash). If left untreated, musculoskeletal, neurological or cardiovascular manifestations may follow.



Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne illness in the U.S. Per the CDC, approximately 30,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported each year. Most cases are reported in the northeastern, Mid-Atlantic and upper midwestern regions of the country. Florida is considered a low incidence state for Lyme disease, with a total of 162 cases reported statewide and four (4) cases reported in Seminole County in 2019. If a patient reports having a tick bite, healthcare providers are encouraged to talk to their patients about Lyme disease and have an open discussion on important topics such as tick removal, symptoms and treatment. The following are important steps to take to prevent tick bites and Lyme disease:

- Cover up when passing through wooded, brushy or grassy areas
- Use an insect repellent that contains at least 20% DEET
- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin
- Walk in the center of trails and paths and avoid contact with ticks when possible
- Shower soon after being outdoors or in a known tick habitat
- Perform regular tick checks on yourself, your family and your pets
- Keep grass, shrubs and trees close to your residence trimmed
- Discuss the need for post-exposure prophylaxis after being bitten by a tick in an area with high incidence of Lyme Disease.

Lyme disease is a reportable disease in Florida. Healthcare providers, laboratories and hospitals are required to report possible cases of Lyme disease to their local county health department. **For any questions about Lyme disease or to report a case, please contact DOH-Seminole Epidemiology Program at 407-665-3243.**

For more information and resources on Lyme Disease, visit the [Florida Department of Health \(FDOH\)](#) and [CDC](#) websites.

Sources: [CDC Lyme Disease](#); [CDC Guidance for Clinicians: Recommendations for Patients after a Tick Bite](#); [CDC Tickborne Diseases of the United States: A Reference Manual for Healthcare Providers](#); [FDOH Lyme Disease](#)

# VIRAL HEPATITIS AWARENESS & ACUTE HEPATITIS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

Taylor Kwiatkowski, MPH

Hepatitis Awareness Month is observed each May in the U.S. in an effort to bring awareness to viral hepatitis while encouraging testing and vaccination. According to the CDC, there were an estimated 115,900 cases of acute viral hepatitis infections in the U.S. in 2019, an increase of over 19,000 cases from 2018. The CDC highlights some key viral hepatitis facts:

- The most common types of viral hepatitis include hepatitis A, B, and C.
- Both hepatitis A and B are vaccine preventable, while C can be cured with treatment.
- Chronic hepatitis B and C are the leading causes of liver cancer in the U.S.
- Approximately 66% of people with hepatitis B and 40% of people with hepatitis C are unaware they are infected.



Hepatitis Testing Day is May 19th and presents an opportunity to decrease the stigma surrounding hepatitis testing so that individuals can know their hepatitis status. Viral hepatitis is a leading public health threat. Raising awareness of, recognizing the impact of, and decreasing the stigma surrounding viral hepatitis is crucial in reducing the burden it places on our population. Testing can be ordered through commercial laboratories. Individuals at [high risk for viral hepatitis infection](#) can be referred to the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County (DOH-Seminole) Hepatitis Program for hepatitis A, B and C testing and vaccination against hepatitis A and B. Those who are positive for hepatitis C will be referred for treatment.

Another hepatitis-related concern that the CDC is currently investigating with health departments across the country is pediatric hepatitis of unknown etiology. Little is known at this time as to the cause of the reported illnesses in children or the number of impacted children. Adenovirus has been detected in some children; however, it is unclear if there is a relationship between the two. The CDC is asking healthcare providers to report possible cases of pediatric hepatitis to their local or state public health authorities and consider adenovirus testing of respiratory, stool and whole blood specimens for children who meet case criteria.

**Any children 16 years of age and younger presenting with acute, non-viral hepatitis with AST or ALT over 500 U/L must be reported to DOH-Seminole Epidemiology Program immediately 24/7 by phone upon initial suspicion or laboratory test order at 407-665-3243 (if reporting afterhours, call 407-665-3000, option 1). Hepatitis A infections are also reportable 24/7 by phone upon diagnosis and hepatitis B and hepatitis C are reportable by next business day.**

Sources: [Hepatitis Awareness Month](#); [Viral Hepatitis Surveillance 2019](#); [Children with Hepatitis of Unknown Cause](#)

# SEMINOLE COUNTY MONTHLY SURVEILLANCE DATA

Confirmed and probable cases of select notifiable diseases as per 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code

*These data are provisional and subject to change.*

Disease	Seminole Monthly Total		Year to Date Total		Seminole County Annual Totals		
	April 2022	April 2021	Seminole 2022	Florida 2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>A. Vaccine Preventable</b>							
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	1	4	0	0	1
Pertussis	0	0	0	15	1	10	6
Varicella	3	0	6	146	15	18	24
<b>B. CNS Diseases &amp; Bacteremias</b>							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	0	33	1	0	1
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	0	0	0	51	0	1	2
Meningococcal Disease	1	0	2	26	0	0	0
<b>C. Enteric Infections</b>							
Campylobacteriosis	8	2	18	1149	56	38	75
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	3	150	3	4	4
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	7	10	6	25
<i>E. coli Shiga Toxin (+)</i>	0	1	1	258	29	6	7
Giardiasis	1	2	6	350	14	16	14
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	21	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	3	8	10	1334	90	76	120
Shigellosis	1	0	4	223	9	12	22
<b>D. Viral Hepatitis</b>							
Hepatitis A	4	0	8	136	1	10	48
Hepatitis B in Pregnant Women	1	0	4	115	2	2	13
Hepatitis B, Acute	1	0	4	237	11	8	16
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	3	7	496	22	28	15
<b>E. Vectorborne/Zoonoses</b>							
Animal Rabies	0	0	0	24	1	7	2
Rabies, possible exposure	8	10	20	1407	81	134	180
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dengue	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	61	5	3	4
Malaria	0	0	0	17	2	0	3
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zika Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>F. Others</b>							
Chlamydia	156	176	609	n/a	1,898	1,730	2,002
Gonorrhea	52	57	201	n/a	683	591	620
Hansen's Disease	0	0	0	3	1	1	0
Legionellosis	0	0	5	192	14	13	8
Mercury Poisoning	0	0	0	16	0	0	0
Syphilis, Total	19	15	88	n/a	254	151	148
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	4	3	25	n/a	86	51	45
Syphilis, Early Latent	8	4	33	n/a	85	61	55
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0	0	n/a	2	1	0
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	7	8	30	n/a	81	38	48
Tuberculosis	1	0	1	n/a	5	7	4
<i>Vibrio Infections</i>	0	0	0	53	2	5	2

\*n/a—Data not available

## Florida Department of Health in Seminole County

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Epidemiology Program Manager

### Disease Reporting

#### Epidemiology Program

Phone:  
COVID-19: 407-665-3000, option 1  
Non-COVID-19: 407-665-3243  
Fax: 407-845-6055

**Afterhours Urgent Disease  
Reporting and Consultations**  
Phone: 407-665-3000, option 1

**Tuberculosis Program**  
Phone: 407-665-3243  
Fax: 407-665-3279

**STD Program**  
Phone: 407-665-3384  
Fax: 407-845-6134

**HIV/AIDS Program**  
Phone: 407-723-5065  
Fax: 407-858-5985

### Email Address\*

[DiseaseControlSeminole@FLHealth.gov](mailto:DiseaseControlSeminole@FLHealth.gov)

*\*Do not include any confidential  
information in email.*

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

## Florida Department of Health Websites

[Florida Department of Health](#)

[Florida Department of Health in Seminole County](#)

## General Public Health Surveillance & Data Resources

[Florida Statewide Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report—Flu Review](#)

[CDC U.S. Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report—FluView](#)

[Florida Health CHARTS—Public Health Data](#)

[Agency for Health Care Administration Data](#)

## COVID-19 Surveillance & Data Resources

[Florida Department of Health—COVID-19 Data and Information](#)

[CDC—U.S. COVID-19 Data](#)

[World Health Organization—Nationwide COVID-19 Data](#)

## Practitioner Resources

[Florida Department of Health Practitioner Disease Report Form](#)

[Florida Department of Health—Report Food and Waterborne Illness](#)

## Health Alerts and Advisories

[CDC Travel Health Notices](#)

[FDA Food Recalls](#)

## Epi Scope Information

The Epi Scope is a monthly newsletter provided at no cost to consumers to share epidemiological data and trends, public health and health care guidance and current events to Seminole County stakeholders.

To subscribe to the Epi Scope distribution list, please visit the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County [Epi Scope webpage](#).

