

Communicable Diseases by Categories

Oral Fecal Route Diseases

Campylobacteriosis is an infectious disease caused by *Campylobacter* bacteria and causes diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain, and fever within 2 to 5 days after exposure to the organism. The illness typically lasts 1 week. Most cases of campylobacteriosis are associated with handling raw poultry or eating raw or undercooked poultry meat.

Cryptosporidiosis is a disease caused by microscopic parasite (*Cryptosporidium*) and causes watery diarrhea, dehydration, stomach cramps, fever, nausea, and vomiting 2-10 days after exposure. Symptoms last approximately one week. *Cryptosporidium* lives in the intestine of infected humans or animals. People get infected by consuming food or water contaminated with the parasite.

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal disease caused by a parasite (*Cyclospora*). This organism causes watery diarrhea, explosive bowel movements, bloating, and decreased appetite. Symptoms usually begin 7 days after exposure and, without treatment, can last days to months. People get infected by consuming food or water contaminated with the parasite.

Giardiasis is a diarrheal illness caused by a one-celled, microscopic parasite, *Giardia intestinalis*. The parasite causes diarrhea, greasy stools that tend to float, gas, and stomach cramps approximately 7 days after exposure with symptoms lasting an average of 4 weeks. People become infected by consuming contaminated food or water.

Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by a virus and causes jaundice (yellowing of the skin), fatigue, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and/or fever. Symptoms develop 30 days after exposure and usually last about 2 weeks. Hepatitis A virus is found in the stool of people infected with Hepatitis A. The

disease can be spread person to person by putting anything in the mouth that has been contaminated with the stool of an infected person. A vaccine can prevent this disease.

Salmonellosis is an infection with a bacteria called Salmonella. Most persons infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most persons recover without treatment. Salmonella organisms are usually transmitted to humans by eating foods contaminated with animal feces. Contaminated foods usually look and smell normal. Contaminated foods are often of animal origin, such as beef, poultry, milk, or eggs, but all foods, including vegetables may become contaminated.

Shigellosis Shigellosis is an infectious disease caused by a group of bacteria called *Shigella*. Most who are infected with *Shigella* develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps starting a day or two after they are exposed to the bacterium. The diarrhea is often bloody. Shigellosis usually resolves in 5 to 7 days. In some persons, especially young children and the elderly, the diarrhea can be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized. Shigellosis can usually be treated with antibiotics. The *Shigella* bacteria pass from one infected person to the next. *Shigella* are present in the diarrheal stools of infected persons while they are sick and for a week or two afterwards. Most *Shigella* infections are the result of the bacterium passing from stools or soiled fingers of one person to the mouth of another person. This happens when basic hygiene and hand washing habits are inadequate.

Blood borne diseases

Hepatitis B, Acute is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. Symptoms of jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and severe joint pain occur 90 days after exposure. Infection occurs when the bodily fluids, particularly blood, of an infected person enters the body of a non-infected person.

Some infection is sexually transmitted. Over 90% of infected adults get well.

Hepatitis B, Chronic is Hepatitis B in which the person never develops antibodies to the disease, never really get better, and can transmit the disease to others the rest of his/her life (lifelong infection). The disease can also lead to cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death. A vaccine can prevent this disease.

Hepatitis B (+HBsAg in Pregnant Women) Every pregnant female is supposed to have this protein test during a prenatal visit. If this is positive, it means the woman has Hepatitis B and can transmit it to her child. Upon delivery the infant is given treatment to help prevent the baby from developing Chronic Hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B Perinatal Hepatitis B in an infant. Several months after the last treatment of an infant born to a +HBsAg Pregnant woman, the baby is tested for Hepatitis B. If positive, the child is put in this category.

Hepatitis C Chronic is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is found in the blood of persons who have the disease. HCV is spread by contact with the blood of an infected person. Time from exposure to symptoms is 9 weeks, although initial infection may be asymptomatic or mild. Unfortunately, 50-80% of cases become chronic carriers. There is no vaccine to prevent this disease.

HIV/AIDS. HIV is spread by sexual contact with an infected person, by sharing needles and/or syringes (primarily for drug injection) with someone who is infected with the HIV virus. HIV infection eventually leads to immune compromise, at which time it is called AIDS. Treatment is used but there is no cure.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, which can damage a woman's reproductive organs. Chlamydia is known as a "silent" disease because about three quarters of infected women and about half of infected men have no symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they usually appear within 1 to 3 weeks after exposure.

Gonorrhea is caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, a bacterium that can grow and multiply easily in the warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract. Transmission is through sexually intercourse with an infected person. Most women show no sign of the disease. Although many men with gonorrhea may have no symptoms at all, some men have some signs or symptoms that appear two to five days after infection.

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Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacterium that looks like a cork screw under the microscope. Syphilis is passed from person to person through direct contact with a syphilis sore. Sores occur mainly on the external genitals, vagina, anus, or in the rectum. Sores also can occur on the lips and in the mouth. Transmission of the organism occurs during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Pregnant

women with the disease can pass it to the babies they are carrying. The time from exposure to sore development is about 21 days. The sore (called a chancre) is usually firm, round, small, and painless.

Other Reportables

Animal Bite Rabies Prophylaxis is an intensive vaccination series recommended for persons who potentially have been exposed to this fatal illness through the bite of an animal known or suspected to have rabies. Most often these exposures are bites from wild animals, such as raccoons or bats, but may also include those from un-immunized dogs or cats which are not available to be observed or tested.

Haemophilus influenzae are common, small bacteria that cause a wide variety of infections in children including meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cords), otitis media (middle ear infection), and sinusitis. The organism often uses the bloodstream as transport to various organs. When it is found in the blood, the term bacteremia is used.

Lead Poisoning is often asymptomatic but in young children may result in impaired neurobehavioral development, low IQ, slow nerve impulses and encephalopathy (diseased brain tissue). The definition of lead poisoning is blood lead level of greater than or equal to 10 micrograms per deciliter of whole blood.

Listeriosis is an illness caused by the bacterium, *Listeria monocytogenes* which can cause severe illness in infants and older adults. Infection can present as septicemia (blood infection) or meningitis.

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a severe respiratory illness caused by a bacterium, *Bordetella pertussis*, which causes prolonged coughing. It is most serious in infants and young

children, but can cause persistent cough in older children and adults. A vaccine can prevent this illness.

Meningitis, Other. Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis caused by bacteria (versus viruses) are usually more serious diseases. Symptoms include fever, headache, stiff neck, disorientation, seizures, coma, and death. Symptoms due to meningitis are all similar, no matter what infectious organism is causing it. The Florida Department of Health has certain bacteria that are coded individually (i.e. in their own categories). However, if a person is determined to have a meningitis caused by an organism (bacteria or virus) that is not coded separately, it is included in this category.

Streptococcal Diseases are a group of illnesses caused by a closely related group of bacteria. **Streptococcal Invasive Group A** is an infection of the blood or other tissues that can lead to severe illness or death if not properly diagnosed and treated. *Streptococcus pneumoniae* or pneumococcal disease is the most common cause of lobar pneumonia, but can also cause meningitis or other infections. These bacteria are classified as **Pneumococcus Resistant** when the bacteria are resistant to certain antibiotics such as penicillin or **Pneumococcus Sensitive** when they are not resistant to penicillin.

Tuberculosis is primarily a lung disease spread via respiratory secretions. Of those infected with this bacteria, only 5% get active disease. Active pulmonary disease occurs 2-10 weeks after exposure with symptoms being fever, night sweats, cough, and weight loss. Most tuberculosis cases in Broward are imported from other countries.

Varicella (Chickenpox) is an acute, generalized viral disease with sudden onset of slight fever, mild constitutional symptoms and a skin eruption that is maculopapular for a few hours, vesicular for 3-4 days and leaves a granular scab.