

# HEALTH MATTERS

Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Newsletter from Davis County Health Department

## Disease Matters

### Severe Lung Illness related to Vaping

#### Background

Since March 31, 2019, approximately 805 cases of severe lung illness associated with e-cigarette or vaping products have been reported nationwide. This includes 12 confirmed deaths in 10 states. As of Monday, September 30, 2019, 71 cases of vaping-related lung disease have been reported in Utah (See Table1).

Among Utah cases, 90% have been hospitalized, with more than half of those being admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) and some requiring the assistance of ventilators to help them breathe.



#### Signs and Symptoms

Patients are presenting with respiratory symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, and fatigue. Some patients also report nausea and vomiting. Symptoms are often progressive and worsen over a period of days or weeks prior to hospital admission.

Chest radiographs show bilateral opacities and CT imaging of the chest often show diffuse ground-glass opacities. Evaluation for infectious etiologies is negative among almost all patients.

#### Exposures and Acquisition

While all reported cases have reported a history of vaping, the investigation has not identified any specific product or substance that is linked to all cases. Most patients, however, have reported vaping products that contain THC.

Investigation is ongoing. For additional updates, see <https://health.utah.gov/lung-disease-investigation>.

**Table 1. Cases by Interview Status and Jurisdiction, Utah, 2019.**

Local Health District	# of Cases	# of Cases Under Review
Salt Lake	39	3
Utah	11	1
Davis	9	0
Weber-Morgan	5	3
Other LHDs	7	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>10</b>

### Need to Report a Communicable Disease?



Call Davis County Health Department at 801-525-5220



Or fax the [information](#) to 801-525-5210

# Seasonal Matters

## West Nile Virus Season Update

Increased rainfall during this past spring and summer season led to increased mosquito populations. Unfortunately, it also led to mosquito pools positive for West Nile virus.

Positive pools were detected throughout the state, but Davis County had a higher number of positive pools than most areas in the state. Throughout the season, 92 positive mosquito pools were lab-confirmed in Davis County, with the peak number of pools occurring mid-August.

Despite the high number of positive pools, fewer than five human cases were reported in Davis County this season. At least one case reported mosquito exposure while visiting other parts of Utah. None of these cases were determined to be neuroinvasive and all infected individuals recovered from the infection.

# Number Matters

## Selected Notifiable Diseases, 2019 & 2018

	2019 Year-to-Date	2018 Year-to-Date (Total)	% Increase or Decrease Year-to-Date
Campylobacteriosis	41	36 (46)	14% ↑
Chlamydia	860	858 (1157)	0% →
Gonorrhea	168	167 (223)	1% ↑
Hepatitis A	2	5 (6)	60% ↓
Hepatitis B, acute & chronic	19	18 (24)	6% ↑
Hepatitis C, acute & chronic	79	84 (119)	6% ↓
Mumps	3	2 (3)	50% ↑
Measles	0	0 (0)	—
Meningococcal disease	0	0 (0)	—
Pertussis	14	38 (39)	63% ↓
Salmonellosis	25	29 (40)	14% ↓
Shiga-toxin producing <i>E. coli</i>	8	14 (18)	43% ↓
Shigellosis	6	2 (4)	200% ↑
Syphilis, all stages	35	28 (35)	25% ↑
Tuberculosis, active disease	3	0 (0)	300% ↑
Tuberculosis, latent infection	54	132 (163)	59% ↓

# Staff Matters

Our communicable disease epidemiologist, Caitlin Pratt, will be off on leave beginning in early November. Reportable illnesses should still be reported via phone (801-525-5220) or fax (801-525-5210) as usual.

However, for other methods of reporting, additional disease reporting needs, or inquiries regarding any published reports, Sarah Willardson will be the primary point of contact through January. Sarah can be reached at 801-525-5206 or [swillardson@co.davis.ut.us](mailto:swillardson@co.davis.ut.us).

# Calendar Matters

- Oct 14: Columbus Day
- Oct 17 - 18: UEA—Fall Break
- Oct 31: Halloween
- Nov 11: Veteran’s Day
- Nov: 28: Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 1: World AIDS Day
- Dec 1 - 7: National Influenza Vaccination Week
- Dec 2 - 8: National Handwashing Awareness Week
- Dec 25: Christmas Day
- Dec 31: New Year’s Eve

