Epi Watch

TULSA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Disease of the Month: RSV

What is RSV?
RSV (Respiratory syncytial virus) is the most common cause of bronchitis and pneumonia among infants and children under 1 year of age. RSV also causes repeated infections throughout life, usually associated with moderate-to-severe cold-like symptoms; however, severe lower respiratory tract disease may occur at any age, especially among the elderly or among those with compromised cardiac, pulmonary or immune systems.

What are the symptoms of the RSV?
The symptoms of RSV are most frequently fever, runny nose, cough and sometimes wheezing. During their first RSV infection, between 25% and 40% of infants and young children have signs or symptoms of bronchiolitis or pneumonia. Most children recover from illness in 8 – 15 days.

How does the RSV spread?
RSV is spread from respiratory secretions through close contact with infected persons or contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. Infection can occur when infectious material contacts mucous membranes of the eyes, mouth or nose and possibly through the inhalation of droplets generated by a sneeze or cough.

Inside this issue:

Special Points of Interest

The Tulsa Health Department offers free Influenza (Flu) vaccines during the Flu season.

Visit our website at: www.tulsa-health.org or call 582-9355 for clinic hours and locations.

TIPS: Power Outages & Food Safety

Power outages present problems with food safety due to temperature issues. Risk for foodborne illness increases if temperatures are abused because they allow the bacteria to grow quicker and achieve higher concentrations. When this occurs, the potential for foodborne illness increases. If people at home or those in food establishments have had a loss of power for more than four hours, take the following precautions with refrigerated food products:

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- Discard any potentially hazardous foods such as meats, eggs, dairy products and leftovers that may have exceeded 41 degrees Fahrenheit. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Frozen foods in a freezer can normally be kept up to 48 hours without power. Again, the 41 degrees Fahrenheit rule applies. A frozen product that has thawed should not be refrozen, it should be used immediately or disposed of. Thawed foods that have not reached 41 degrees Fahrenheit can be cooked and consumed.

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Current News

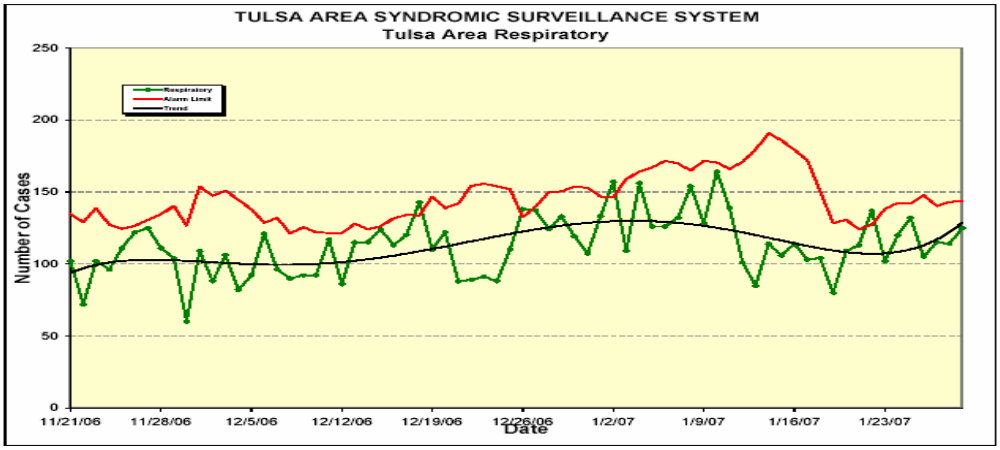
Avian flu continues to cause concern to healthcare professionals around the world. On 3 February 2007, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported the presence of A/H5N1 avian influenza virus in a 22-year old deceased female from Lagos, Nigeria. H5N1 virus has been identified in poultry outbreaks in Nigeria. WHO is working with the government of Nigeria to carry out intensive surveillance in order to identify additional cases.

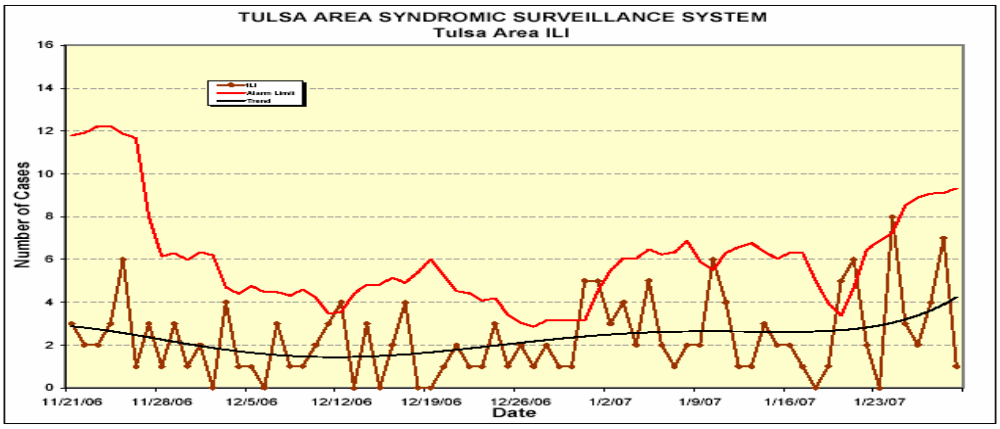
The H5N1 avian influenza virus is not transmitted to humans through properly prepared and cooked food. Cases of human infection with H5N1 have frequently been linked to the home slaughter and subsequent handling of diseased or dead birds prior to cooking. These practices represent the highest risk to human infection and are the most important to avoid. When handling raw poultry or live or dead birds, it is imperative to disinfect hands and surfaces with soap and water. Consumers also need to be sure that during the cooking process, poultry reaches temperatures of at least 165°F in all parts and that eggs are fully cooked throughout.

Reported Cases of Selected Diseases

	Tulsa County		Oklahoma	
Disease	Cases Reported Year-to-Date 2007	Cases Reported Year-to-Date 2006	Cases Reported Year-to-Date 2007	Cases Reported Year-to-Date 2006
Campylobacter	2	2	8	29
E. coli O157:H7	0	0	0	0
Giardia	0	3	9	14
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	0	1	0	3
Hepatitis C	4	18	0	134
Rabies (Animal)	0	0	2	4
Salmonella	3	3	12	21
Shigella	0	0	1	10

Surveillance Report





The Tulsa Health Department collects Emergency Room chief complaint data to monitor the emergence of illnesses, such as influenza, in our community. For additional information on THD's county-wide surveillance system please click here

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