

February– 2006

EPI Gram is a monthly publication of the Stark County Public Health Coalition. It is a summary of provisional communicable disease reports and other key public health indicators in Stark County, Ohio. This report includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases. Some reportable conditions may be under investigation, and at any given time, data may fluctuate from month to month for a specific disease category.

Please refer to “Case Definitions for Infectious Conditions Under Public Health Surveillance,” MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) 1997; 46 (No. RR-10), the Ohio Department of Health Infectious Disease Control Manual or visit www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/casedef/index.htm for case definitions.

Table 1 – Summary of Select Reportable Diseases for Feb 2006 in Stark County, Ohio (provisional data only)

	Alliance City Health			Canton City Health			Massillon City Health			Stark County Health			Stark County Totals			
	Feb 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Feb 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Feb 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Feb 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Feb 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	5 Year annual average
Amebiasis													0	0	0	0.4
Campylobacteriosis				1	3	2				3	6	3	4	9	5	51.6
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Dis													0	0	0	0.6
Cryptosporidiosis						1				2	3		2	3	1	11.6
E Coli 0157													0	0	0	2.4
E Coli			1										0	0	1	2.4
Enceph., WNV													0	0	0	3
Enceph., Other													0	0	0	3.2
Giardiasis	0	1		1	1			1		5	8	5	6	10	6	53
Haemo. Influz., Bac				0	1							1	0	1	1	5.6
Hepatitis A							1	1		1	1	1	2	2	1	9.2
Hepatitis B*			3	2	6					4	6	4	6	12	7	37.4
Hepatitis C*	0	1	3	13	21	27	0	2	5	17	22	20	30	46	55	281
Kawasaki Syndrome													0	0	0	3.4
Legionellosis						1				1	1		1	1	1	11.4
Listeriosis													0	0	0	1.6
Lyme Disease												1	0	0	1	3.2
Malaria												1	0	0	1	1
Meningitis, Asep			1	0	2	1				3	4	1	3	6	3	58
Meningitis Bac.													0	0	0	4.4
Meningococcal Dis.													0	0	0	2.8
Pertussis						1						4	0	0	5	16.4
Salmonellosis				1	2	2			1	3	5	3	4	7	6	48.4
Shigellosis												1	0	0	1	12.4
Strep Inv A GAS	0	1	1	0	1							1	0	2	2	10.6
Strep B Newborn													0	0	0	1.8
Strep Pneu ISP			2	1	3	2				3	7	12	4	10	16	36
Strep TSS													0	0	0	0.6
Typhoid Fever													0	0	0	0.2
Varicella ***	2	4		8	21		2	2		30	116		42	143	0	***
Vibriosis													0	0	0	0.2
Yersinosis													0	0	0	0.8

*This includes all hepatitis reports; acute, chronic, and status not known. **Incomplete 5 yr average due to a change in reporting requirements. ***Newly reportable condition.

Table 2 Summary of Air Quality Index, Pollen, and Mold Counts for Stark County, Ohio, including limited historical data.

	Feb 2006			Feb 2005			Mar 2005
	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Mean	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Mean	Monthly Mean
Pollen Count	Suspended for season**						
Mold Count							
Air Quality Index	45	2	22.26	82	13	31.3	45.32

Pollen and Mold counts are derived from rotorod samples on the 2nd story roof of Canton City Hall. The readings are taken from a 24 hour period/24 hour avg. on all work days. **Suspended for the season: no readings October- March. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is derived by comparison to EPA standards from the following readings: Particulate Matter 10, Particulate Matter 2.5 continuous on CCHD 2nd floor roof top; Sulfur Dioxide at Malone College; and ozone monitors in Canton, Brewster, Alliance, and Middlebranch. This index is produced from March to October. AQI ratings are 151-200: unhealthy; 101-150: unhealthy for sensitive groups; 51-100: moderate; 0-50: good.

Table 3 Summary of Select Vital Statistics for Stark County, Ohio

	Alliance City Health District			Canton City Health District			Massillon City Health District			Stark County Health District			Total in Stark County		
	Feb	YTD 2006	2005	Feb	YTD 2006	2005	Feb	YTD 2006	2005	Feb	YTD 2006	2005	Feb	YTD 2006	2005
Number of Live Births*	39	76	404	339	550	3962		0	1	3	26	207	381	652	4574
Number of Teenage births*		***	57		***	430		***	0		***	21	***	***	508
Number of Deaths*	30	62	368	163	321	2092	39	76	438	80	198	1407	312	657	4305

*These numbers represent occurrences within the jurisdiction and are not indicative of births and deaths of residents of each jurisdiction, therefore jurisdictional rates are not computed. The 2002 Birth Rate for Stark County was 0.0127, 0.0126 for 2003, 0.0124 for 2004, and 0.0121 for 2005. The 2002 Death Rate for Stark County was 0.0109, 0.0111 for 2003, 0.0104 for 2004, and 0.0114 for 2005 (crude rates are based on US Census 2000 Stark County population of 377,438). *** Due to a change in reporting systems the teen birth data is temporarily unavailable.

IN THE NEWS:

INFLUENZA:

Locally: There has been a five fold increase in reported cases of Influenza over the past four weeks. All of the five area hospitals are reporting the increased activity. Predominantly all cases reported are type A, however there has been at least one confirmed type B. All of the subtyped Influenza A's in Stark County have been Influenza A: California-Like (H3N2).

Statewide: The state of Ohio has upgraded to widespread activity. In Ohio outbreaks and ILI's are used along with other indicators to determine activity. Other indicators may include: over the counter sales, information from sentinel providers, and school reports.

Nationally: During week 9 (February 26 – March 4, 2006), influenza activity increased in the United States. The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) was above the national baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the baseline level. Twenty-five states and New York City reported widespread influenza activity; 13 states reported regional influenza activity; 8 states and the District of Columbia reported local influenza activity; and 4 states reported sporadic influenza activity.

Laboratory Surveillance: During week 9, WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 3,239 specimens tested for influenza viruses and 701 (21.6%) were positive. Of these, 175 were Influenza A (H3N2) viruses, 20 were influenza A (H1N1) viruses, 399 were influenza A viruses that were not subtyped, and 107 were influenza B viruses.

Internationally/Avian: As of 13 March, 2006, the World Health Organization reports 98 deaths from 177 confirmed cases of Human Avian Influenza in seven countries. All human cases have coincided with outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in poultry. Poultry outbreaks have been confirmed in 23 countries.

With regards to **pandemic planning** for Avian Influenza here are some important comments from Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt. "We will be dependent upon traditional public health measures to contain and limit an (avian influenza pandemic in the United States)." He also said he was worried about how the country would handle a surge in demand for health care. "If we have a person-to-person, transmissible virus and we enter a pandemic condition, we will be operating without a vaccine for the first six months," Pandemic planning "will need to be the focus of individual community planning, because every community's surge will be handled differently."

VARICELLA: Answering the question: Why, as of January, 2006, are we required to report cases to Health Jurisdictions?

The information provided with person-based reporting will help identify vaccine breakthrough, a changing epidemiology of the affected population and outbreaks. Further, we can use this data to better assess the health burden of disease and the impact of national and state varicella vaccination programs. To aid reporting, an abbreviated version of the CDC Varicella report form for use in Stark County can be found at: www.cantonhealth.org/Stark%20County%20Varicella%20Report%20Form.pdf.

If you have any questions, including how to receive other copies of this report, please contact Karen Schanz at (330) 493-9928 x287 or Kkschanz@starkhealth.org or Christina Henning at (330) 489-3454 or Chenning@cantonhealth.org.