

Public Health Points

York City Bureau of Health

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HEALTH BUREAU OFFERS NEW STD PROGRAM & CLINICS

The York City Bureau of Health started a new program in January to combat certain sexually transmitted infections. The new initiative is called the Expedited Partner Treatment (EPT) Program.

During the year 2012, the Health Bureau received 540 reported cases of Chlamydia infection and 292 reported cases of Gonorrhea infection among York City residents. Cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea have been respectively the #1 and #2 reported communicable diseases in the City of York for a number of years.

According to Linda Otero, the Health Bureau's Disease Intervention Specialist, "Whereas the reported cases always get treatment, sex partners of cases should also get treatment, otherwise there is a significant risk for re-infection. Unfortunately, many partners do not get treatment for a variety of reasons." The EPT Program will provide free antibiotic treatment in a timely, unhassled manner to sex partners of individuals diagnosed with Chlamydia or Gonorrhea infection or both.

The EPT Program is available to both City and non-City residents. Ms. Otero states, "Our rationale is that these types of infection don't seem to respect geo-political boundaries. City residents have non-City partners and vice versa."

The Program also stresses the importance of responsible sexual behaviors – monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner or limiting the number of sexual partners, regular condom use, and periodic screening at medical care offices. Information about each of the STD's, sign and symptoms as well as treatments, is shared with each client.

Individuals who are contacts of documented Chlamydia or Gonorrhea cases can come to the Health Bureau's Albert S. Weyer Health Center at 435 West Philadelphia Street during the new STD clinic times – Tuesday mornings from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday afternoons from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. Walk-ins will be accepted at other times as staffing permits. Appointments can also be made by calling the Health Center's front office at 849-2299.

FLU SEASON SLOWS BUT NOT OVER YET

Just as our local flu season took off rapidly in mid-December 2012, the number of reported cases of flu has dropped quickly since the beginning of February 2013. Flu case reports, however, continue to come and an early end to the flu season would be premature to call at this time.

Flu seasons generally extend into March and April. Whereas the early part of flu season involves Type A influenza strains, the later part can include more B strains, hence the reason some people flu twice in the same season.

Reportable Conditions – 2013 City of York, Pa		
Reported Cases	Jan.	Total
Animal Bites	5	5
Campylobacter Enteritis	1	1
Chlamydia	47	47
Cryptosporidiosis	1	1
Gonorrhea	24	24
Hepatitis B	0	0
Hepatitis C	13	13
HIV Infection	1	1
Influenza, Type A	30	30
Influenza, Type B	2	2
Influenza, Not Specified	1	1
Invasive Group A Beta-Strep Disease	0	0
Lead Poisoning	0	0
Legionellosis	0	0
Lyme Disease	1	1
Malaria	0	0
Meningitis – Aseptic	0	0
Meningitis – Bacterial	0	0
Pertussis	0	0
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection	22	22
Salmonellosis	2	2
Shigellosis	0	0
Syphilis – Primary/Secondary	0	0
West Nile Virus – Human	0	0
Total Case Reports	150	150

The York City Bureau of Health continues to recommend that anyone over 6 months of age who hasn't yet received this year's flu vaccine should still get his or her flu shot. Vaccine availability is still good. City residents can call the Health Bureau at 815-0910 to schedule an appointment.

Working Towards A Bikeable/Walkable City

Eat Play Breathe York (EPBY) is an initiative developed from a 2010 CDC Action Communities for Health, Innovation and Environmental Change (ACHIEVE) grant funded project. In two years EPBY has made significant strides either directly or indirectly through partnerships to improve the health of those who live, work, or play in the City of York. EPBY has guided the establishment of community groups related to the health related topics in their mission such as the Transportation Task Force (TTF).



The TTF is comprised of a multidisciplinary team that utilizes CDC's 5 "P" model approach: Partnership, Promotion, Programming, Policy Change, and Physical Infrastructure. The TTF has developed an annual plan highlighting a number of potential pedestrian/bicycle improvements. The TTF is currently looking to fulfill 13 improvement areas that range from developing a comprehensive bike route system to developing/implementing a bike sharing program. The TTF is preparing an application to the League of American Bicyclists in July for the City of York to become a designated Bicycle Friendly Community. The Bicycle Friendly Community designation will bring recognition to the City, promote existing bicycle amenities that we have to offer, establish eligibility to receive free technical assistance to advance our efforts, and provide suggestions on additional benchmarks to aim for in the future.

The TTF is actively pursuing a grant to fund a bike-sharing program for the City of York. A few representatives from the committee created a video <http://youtu.be/I3a6mvYdLQE> that depicts their vision for the program. The goals of this project are multifaceted and would improve the City of York in several ways by: bridging the gap between the students at York College to the downtown area, connecting the campus to the downtown area by utilizing the York County Rail Trail, capitalizing on the Rail Trail as a community asset, enhancing the health of individuals which will improve the overall health status of the community, serving as a tourist attraction particularly after the York County Rail Trail extension is completed, stimulating the local economy by leading people to the downtown businesses and attractions, and improving the environment.

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