

Communicable Diseases

Monthly Newsletter

For Joplin City and Jasper County

February 2011

Volume 4, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

Flu Activity Report	2
Monthly Communicable Diseases Report	3
Upcoming Trainings/ Events	4
Reporting Diseases/ Health Conditions in MO.	4

Briefs

- ◆ Over 15 million U.S. households regularly depend on private ground water wells.
- ◆ All private wells use ground water.
- ◆ It is important that private ground water wells are checked regularly to ensure that the water is safe for drinking.

Source: CDC

Ground Water Awareness Week

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is collaborating with the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) to highlight National Ground Water Awareness Week, March 6--12, 2011.

The majority of public water systems in the United States (U.S.) use ground water as their primary source, providing drinking water to nearly 90 million persons. An additional 16 million U.S. homes use private wells, which also rely on ground water. NGWA uses this week to stress ground water's importance to the health and well being of humans and the environment.

Most of the time, ground water sources in the U.S. are safe to use and not a cause for concern. However, ground water sources sometimes can be contaminated by natural processes or through local land use practices (e.g., use of fertilizers and pesticides), manufacturing processes, and problems with nearby septic systems. The contamination in drinking water can lead

to illness and disease. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has worked with individual states to develop new regulations to protect ground water that is the source for public water systems.

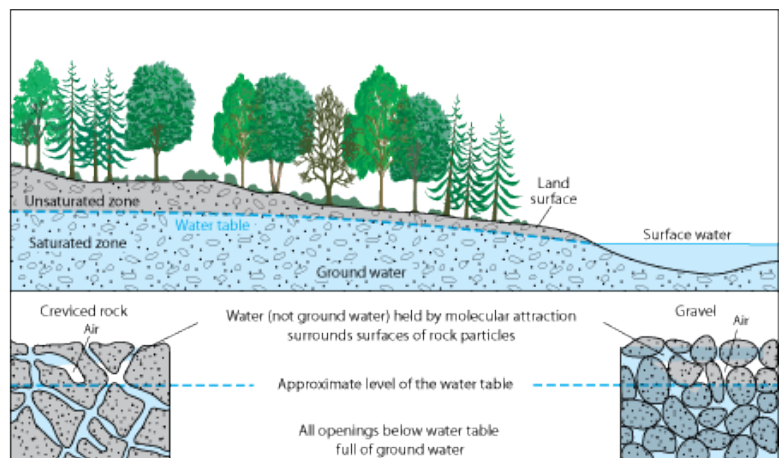
However, private ground water wells (i.e., those serving fewer than 25 persons) must be properly maintained by well owners to ensure the water remains free from harmful chemicals and pathogens.

Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/index.html>. State and local health departments also have resources available to help homeowners protect ground water.

Source: CDC

Ground Water and Wells

When rain falls, much of it is absorbed into the ground. Water that is not used by plants moves downward until it reaches a dense layer of rock. The water trapped below the ground in the pores and spaces above the dense rock barrier is the ground water or "aquifer", which we get when we drill wells.



Source: CDC

Influenza Activity Update—February 2011

Joplin City and Jasper County

During week 8, (week ending February 26), local influenza data showed increased flu activity. The increase started from the second week of January as shown in figure 1. Table 1 and 2 show the cumulative distribution of reported flu cases in Joplin City and Jasper County by type of flu and age from October 3, 2010 through February 26, 2011).

State and National

During week 7, (week ending February 19) the following influenza activity was reported:

- **Widespread** influenza activity— 44 states including Missouri.
- **Regional** influenza activity - 4 states.
- **Local** influenza activity - District of Columbia.
- **Sporadic** influenza activity— 2 states.

CDC continues to recommend vaccination for everyone 6 months and older this season as well as rapid flu treatment with antiviral drugs for those at high risk of serious flu complications (young children, pregnant women, people with certain chronic health conditions e.g. asthma, diabetes, heart and lung disease and those over 64 years.

Source: DHSS & CDC

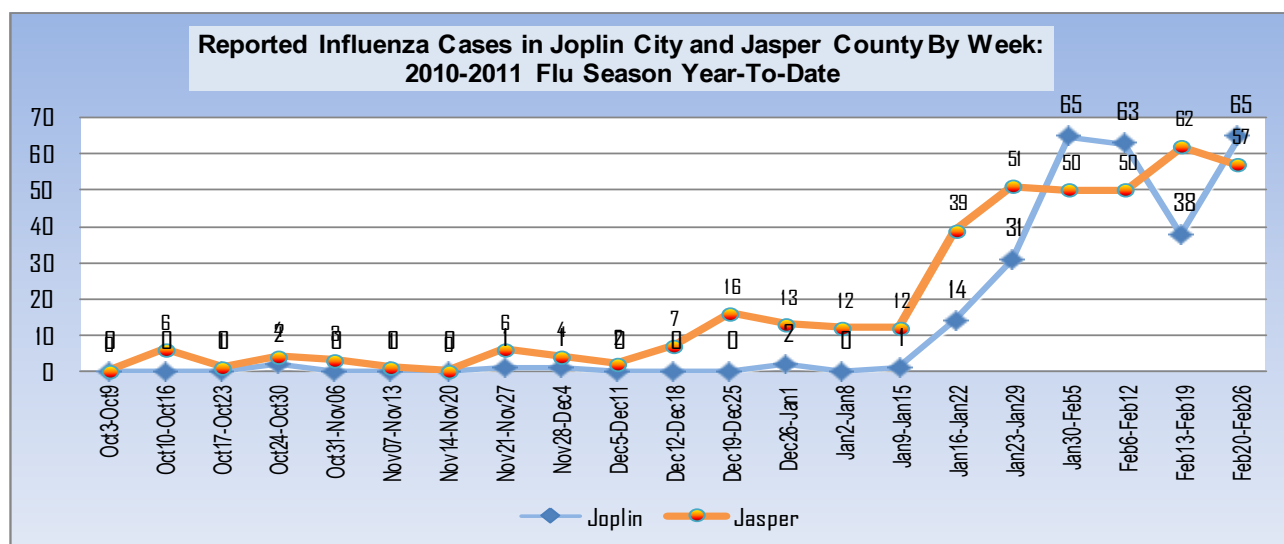
Table 1

2010-11 Flu Season		
October 3 Through February 26, 2011		
	Jasper County	Joplin City
0-1	28	42
2-4	45	61
5-14	139	142
15-24	68	18
25-49	90	8
50-64	15	3
65+	11	9
Total	396	283

Table 2

2010-11 Flu Season		
October 3 Through February 26, 2011		
	Jasper County	Joplin City
Influenza A	258	136
Influenza B	4	0
2009 H1N1	133	117
Untyped/ Unknown	1	30
Total	396	283

Figure 1



Source: Joplin/Jasper County Flu Surveillance 2010-2011

Communicable Disease Monthly Report (January through February)

Table 3

**Cumulative Cases from January Through February 26th in Joplin City and Jasper County;
2010 & 2011. (Data includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases)**

CONDITION / YEAR BY LPHA	JOPLIN		JASPER	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
ANAPLASMA PHAGOCYTOPHILUM	0	0	0	1
ANIMAL BITES	26	33	23	15
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	3	1	0	2
E. COLI SHIGA TOXIN	1	0	0	0
GIARDIASIS	0	1	1	1
HEPATITIS B PREGNANCY	1	0	0	0
HEPATITIS B (ACUTE)	1	3	1	0
HEPATITIS B (CHRONIC)	0	2	0	2
HEPATITIS C (ACUTE)	0	0	0	2
MYCOBACTERIUM OTHER THAN TB (MOTT)	1	0	0	0
PERTUSSIS	1	0	0	0
SALMONELLOSIS	0	3	0	2
SHIGELLOSIS	3	1	0	9
STREP DISEASE, GROUP A INVASIVE	0	0	0	1
TB DISEASE	0	1	0	0
TB INFECTION	2	0	4	7
TOXIC SHOCK (STAPH) SYNDROME	0	0	0	1
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	0	0	1	3

Source: Crystal Reports, DHSS. Data is preliminary and may be subject to change.



According to communicable disease data in table 3, increases in diseases/ conditions reported in Joplin and Jasper County in 2011 compared to 2010 from January through February were reported as follows;

Joplin City

- ◆ Animal bites
- ◆ Chronic Hepatitis B
- ◆ Acute Hepatitis C
- ◆ Salmonella Infection
- ◆ Giardia Infection
- ◆ TB Disease

Jasper County

- ◆ Salmonella Infection
- ◆ Shigella infection
- ◆ Campylobacter Infection
- ◆ Chronic Hepatitis B
- ◆ Acute Hepatitis C
- ◆ TB Infection
- ◆ Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Contacts

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TRAININGS AND EVENTS

FREE INFLUENZA WORKSHOPS 2011 **MAY through JULY – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The Section for Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention is planning several free workshops on influenza throughout the state. Topics will include seasonal and pandemic influenza, working with the State Public Health Laboratory, reporting and surveillance, and vaccine issues.

For more information, please contact Lesha Peterson at 573-522-9146 or by e-mail at: Lesha.Peterson@dhss.mo.gov.

- ◆ May 25 DHSS Central Office - Jefferson City
- ◆ June 7 Northwest District Health Office – Independence
- ◆ June 16 Southeast District Health Office - Poplar Bluff
- ◆ June 22 Springfield Library Center – Springfield
- ◆ June 30 Jefferson County Health Department – Arnold
- ◆ July 14 Cameron Area Health Office – Cameron

The workshops are from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with lunch on your own.

Reporting Diseases and other Health Conditions in Missouri

A reportable disease is any disease or condition for which an official report is required according to state law ([Rule 19 CSR 20-20.020](#) and [19 CSR 20-20.080](#)) (health care provider and laboratory respectively). These diseases/conditions shall be reported to the local health department or the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Why Report

The accurate identification and timely reporting of diseases and other health conditions is vital in disease control because it;

- ◆ Enables the health department to implement disease intervention without delay.
- ◆ Assists in identifying contacts who may be infected or individuals at risk of infection.
- ◆ Helps to determine occurrence of diseases in the communities.
- ◆ Enables provision of aggregate data on possible risk factors associated with diseases.

The data collected from disease reporting;

- ◆ Helps physicians evaluate their patients' illnesses.
- ◆ Assists the public to make better decisions regarding their own health and lifestyle.
- ◆ Enables public health agencies to target and implement prevention and control measures.
- ◆ Permits public health agencies to plan for resource allocation, implement initiatives and evaluate them.

Who Must Report

Healthcare providers or other institutions providing diagnostic testing, screening or care to any person with any disease or condition. Laboratories are also required to report any test that is positive for, or suggestive of, any reportable disease.

(Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services)

"If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it".

~Mary Engelbreit