

Communicable Diseases

Jan/Feb 2011

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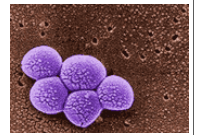
Monthly Newsletter

For Joplin City and Jasper County

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Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in the Community



Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a kind of “staph” bacteria that has become resistant to certain antibiotics that are used in treatment.

MRSA has long been associated with exposure in healthcare settings but emerged in the late 1990’s among previously healthy individuals in the community. The bacteria is commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. About 1 % of population in United States is a carrier of MRSA. The carriers do not usually have any symptoms.

treated without antibiotics. However, staph can also cause serious infections such as surgical wound infections, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia.

Risk factors include skin-to-skin contact, skin cuts/abrasions, contaminated items and surfaces and lack of proper hygiene.

Common settings include healthcare facilities, schools, dormitories, military barracks, households, correctional facilities and child care centers etc.

Prevention

MRSA bacteria can live on surfaces for days, weeks or months. It is therefore important to;

- ◆ Clean regularly touched surfaces.
- ◆ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ◆ Shower after working out.
- ◆ Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered until healed.
- ◆ Avoid contact with other people’s wounds or bandages.
- ◆ Avoid sharing personal items e.g. razors and towels.
- ◆ Use a barrier (e.g., clothing or a towel) between your skin and shared equipment and wipe the surfaces.



Photo Credit: Major Kirk Waibel, MD

MRSA infections appear as “spider bite-like” sores, blisters filled with fluid, a cut that is swollen, hot and filled with pus, and large, red, painful bumps under the skin. Some people may also develop fever and chills. These skin infections often begin with an injury to the skin such as a cut or scrape which allow the bacteria to enter the skin and cause an infection.

Complications

Staph bacteria are one of the common causes of skin infection in the U.S. Most of these infections are minor and can be

Source: CDC & MMWR



Influenza Activity Report—2010-11 Flu Season

Flu Activity (Week ending Jan 29)

During week 4, (week ending January 29) the following influenza activity was reported:

- **Widespread** influenza activity was reported by 30 states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming).
- **Regional** influenza activity was reported by 15 states (California, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, **Missouri**, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).
- **Local** influenza activity was reported by the District of Columbia and one state Washington).
- **Sporadic** influenza activity was reported by Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and four states (Delaware, Hawaii, Oregon, and Utah)

(Source: CDC)

Joplin City and Jasper County Flu Activity

Local influenza data show increased flu activity from the second week of January (fig 1). Table 1 and 2 shows the flu data by type of flu and age.

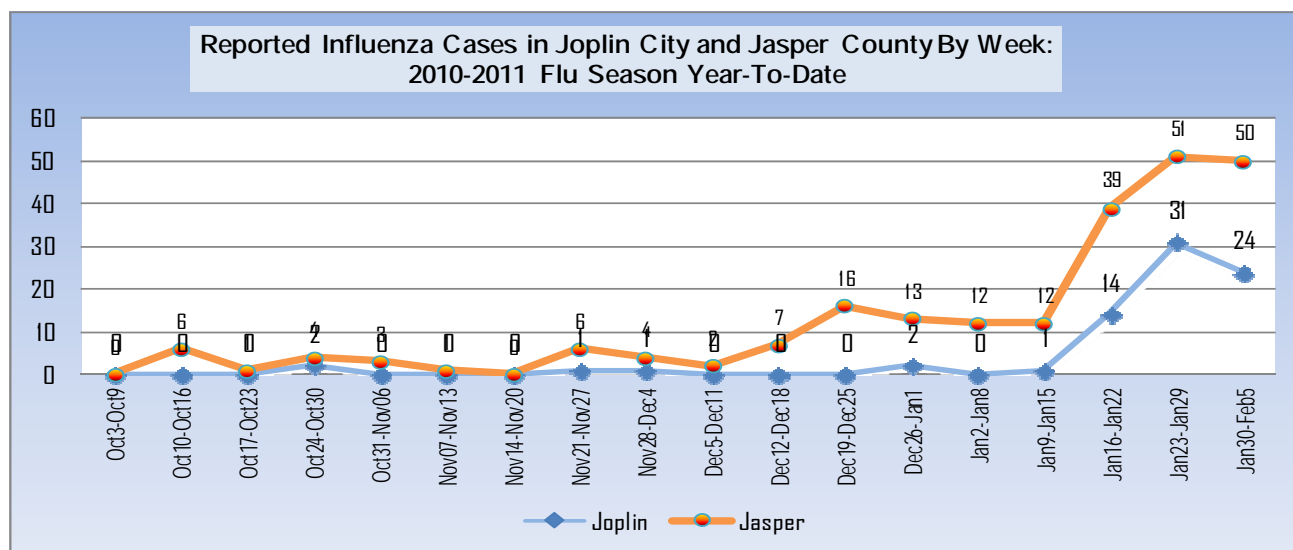
Table 1

2010-11 Flu Season		
October 3 Through February 5, 2011		
	Jasper County	Joplin City
0-1	14	6
2-4	27	11
5-14	90	39
15-24	37	7
25-49	46	3
50-64	8	2
65+	5	8
Total	227	76

Table 2

2010-11 Flu Season		
October 3 Through February 5, 2011		
	Jasper County	Joplin City
Influenza A	154	29
Influenza B	68	40
2009 H1N1	4	0
Untyped/Unknown	1	7
Total	227	76

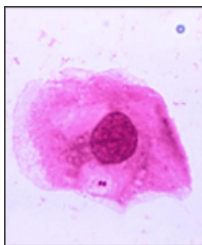
Figure 1



Source: Joplin/Jasper County Flu Surveillance 2010-11

Bacterial Meningitis

Meningitis is a disease caused by the inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis may develop in response to a number of causes, usually bacteria or viruses, but meningitis can also be caused by physical injury, cancer or certain drugs.



Bacterial meningitis is usually more severe than viral meningitis and can have serious after-effects, such as brain damage, hearing loss, limb amputation, learning disabilities, etc. One of the leading causes of bacterial meningitis in children and young adults in the United States is the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*.

Transmission

The bacteria are spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions (coughing, kissing). The bacteria are not spread by casual contact or by just breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. Sometimes the bacteria that cause meningitis have spread to other people who have had close and/or prolonged contact with a patient with meningitis caused by *N. meningitidis*. People in the same household or daycare center or anyone with direct contact with a patient's oral secretions would be considered at increased risk of infection. Close contacts of a person with meningitis should receive antibiotics to prevent them from getting the disease.

Symptoms

Symptoms can appear quickly or over several days, typically within 3-7 days after exposure. Those infants younger than one month old are at a higher risk for severe infection. Infants may appear slow or inactive, irritable, vomiting or feeding poorly. Therefore, if you think you or someone else may have meningitis, see a physician as soon as possible.

Treatment

Bacterial meningitis can be treated with a number of effective antibiotics. It is important that treatment be started early in the course of the disease. Appropriate antibiotic treatment should reduce the risk of dying from meningitis to below 15%, although the risk is higher among the elderly.

Prevention

Keeping up to date with recommended immunizations is the best defense. Maintaining healthy habits, like getting plenty of rest and not coming into close contact with people who are sick, can also help.

There are vaccines for three bacteria that can cause meningitis: *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)

Source: CDC

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: December 2010—Joplin City & Jasper County



STD data showed that the STD infections reported in December, 2010 were 35 and 14 in Joplin and Jasper County respectively.

In Joplin, 20 of 26 chlamydia cases reported were women, and 11 of 13 in Jasper County were women. The age-group most affected in both jurisdictions was 15-24 years. (Table 3)

Source: Joplin/Jasper County STD surveillance

Table 3

	Jasper County Dec 2010				Joplin City Dec 2010			
	Gender		Age		Gender		Age	
	Men	Women	15-24	>25	Men	Women	15-24	>25
Chlamydia	2	11	9	3	6	20	21	5
Gonorrhea	0	0	0	1	4	4	8	0
Syphilis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

NB: Data provided is preliminary and subject to change.

Contacts

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TRAININGS AND EVENTS

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) COHORT REVIEW

When: February 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All participating video conferencing sites should sign onto the system at 12:30 p.m. on February 24. All counties are welcome to call in, regardless of whether they will be presenting a TB case(s) or not. The call-in telephone number is toll-free at 866-630-9348.

EPHS ENVIRONMENTAL CHILDCARE TRAINING AND DISTRICT MEETING

When: March 2, 2011

Where: Springfield Library Center (4653 S. Campbell)

Training is mandatory for those inspecting under the Child Care Sanitation participation agreement.

Communicable Disease Monthly Report—January-February 2011

Table 4

Cumulative Cases from January Through February 5th 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
ANIMAL BITES	16	15	16	5
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	2	0	0	1
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	0	1	0	0
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	0	0	0	2
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC IN	6	0	7	0
SALMONELLOSIS	0	2	0	1
SHIGELLOSIS	2	0	0	3
TB DISEASE	0	0	1	5
TB INFECTION	2	0	0	0
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	0	0	1	2
Total Cases Year To-Date	28	11	25	16

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

**“A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort”
~ Herm Albright**