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Durham County Communicable Disease Update for Healthcare Providers

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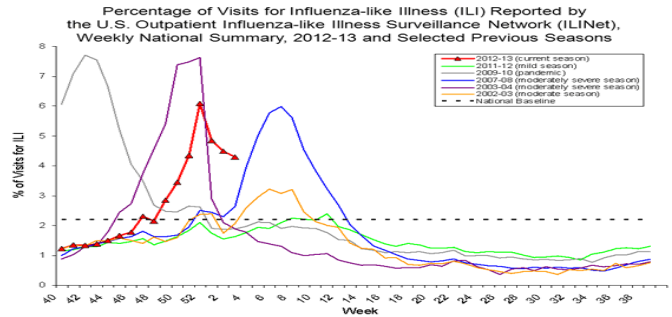
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Announcements

- The Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) is celebrating 100 years of service in 2013.
- Please visit the new Public Health website at www.dconc.gov/publichealth.
- Staff e-mail addresses have changed! Addresses previous using the @durhamcountync.gov format have changed to @dconc.gov.
- Information for healthcare providers will soon be available on the Public Health website, under Health Resources and Data, including communicable disease report forms.

Seasonal Influenza

- During January 13-19, influenza activity remains elevated in the United States.
- North Carolina continues to have widespread flu activity. There have been 33 flu deaths in N.C. this season, 76% of which have been in persons > 65 years of age.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 80.4% of the influenza viruses tested are influenza A, of which 62.8% are H3N2 viruses that are of the same lineage/component included in this year's flu vaccine.
- The majority of the flu viruses are susceptible to



oseltamivir and zanamivir; however, rare sporadic cases of oseltamivir-resistant 2009 H1N1 and A (H3N2) viruses have been detected worldwide.

- Antiviral therapy is most effective when started within 48 hours of illness onset. However, antiviral treatment might still be beneficial in patients with severe or progressive illness and

hospitalized patients, even when started more than 48 hours after illness onset.

- The Immunization Clinic continues to provide free, state-supplied flu vaccines to persons ≥ 6 months of age on a walk-in basis from 8:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m., Monday — Friday.

Noroviruses

- In 2012, a new strain of norovirus was detected in Australia called GII.4 Sydney. This strain is currently the leading cause of norovirus outbreaks in the U.S.
- Symptoms develop 12 to 48 hours after being exposed to norovirus with acute onset of vomiting, watery, non-bloody diarrhea with abdominal cramps, low-grade fever.
- Durham County has experienced several outbreaks of norovirus infections this fall/winter season already, primarily in long term care facilities.
- Real-time polymerase chain reaction is the most widely used test for detecting norovirus, but is not widely available.
- Health care providers should report all possible outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis including

norovirus, to the Department of Public Health.

- Proper hand washing is the best way to prevent norovirus transmission; alcohol based sanitizers.



Important Numbers

Main Number	(919) 560-7600
Communicable Disease Control Program	(919) 560-7635
Immunization Clinic	(919) 560-7608
Tuberculosis Clinic	(919) 560-7633