



NJ Communi- CABLE

Fall 2017 Quarterly Newsletter

Communicable Disease Service Mission Statement

Our mission is to prevent communicable disease among all citizens of New Jersey, and to promote the knowledge and use of healthy lifestyles to maximize the health and well-being of New Jerseyans.

We will accomplish our mission through our leadership, collaborative partnerships, and advocacy for communicable disease surveillance, research, education, treatment, prevention and control.

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor
Cathleen D. Bennett
Commissioner

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SERVICE

Christina Tan, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist/
Assistant Commissioner
Gary Ludwig, MS, Director
Suzanne Miro, MPH, MCHES
Editor, Research Scientist

ICAR: Engaging Health Care through Assessment

As part of a three-year nationwide program to reduce health care-associated infections (HAIs), New Jersey formed the Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) team, comprised of epidemiologists and infection preventionists. The team conducts voluntary, non-regulatory assessments of basic infection prevention practices in New Jersey health care facilities. To date, the team has visited over 90 facilities, including acute care hospitals, hemodialysis centers, long-term care facilities and outpatient ambulatory surgery centers. During these assessments, the team takes a collaborative approach to highlight and share what facilities are doing well and identify opportunities to enhance or improve infection prevention efforts. Thus far, the ICAR team has been overwhelmed with positive feedback from participants.

Perhaps the best example of the ICAR team's dedication and commitment to reducing HAIs is the consistent effort made by the team to engage facilities in infection prevention through education and outreach. The ICAR team has developed and



shared several educational resources with health care providers and administrators as they enhance their infection prevention programs. Most recently, to address gaps observed in long-term care facilities, the ICAR team hosted a webinar discussing implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs. The webinar also highlighted three ICAR participants' experiences developing and formalizing their programs. This webinar is the second of four, each emphasizing basic infection prevention elements, to strengthen and support safer health care throughout New Jersey. For more information on ICAR visit

www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/hais.html





Tick-borne Disease Training

On August 17, 2017, the Communicable Disease Service (CDS) conducted a community education training webinar on the basics of tick-borne diseases. The purpose of the webinar was to assist local public health staff in conducting community education sessions on the basics of tick-borne diseases. Participants on the webinar received a toolkit containing a slide set with scripted talking points, pre- and post-test, program evaluation form, and program report form.

Key messages from the training included avoiding tick-infested

areas, using tick repellents, dressing properly, and performing tick checks after being outdoors. The training also addressed how to properly remove an attached tick.

In addition to this community education program, the CDS recently developed a brief educational video on tick safety and revised the tick-borne disease brochure. The video can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gtfr3btGki0>. To order quantities of the brochure, please contact Krista Reale at 609-826-5964. 🇺🇸



The NJDOH Communicable Disease Service includes:

Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program (IZDP): 609-826-5964

Regional Epidemiology Program (REP): 609-826-5964

Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP): 609-826-4860

We're on the Web!
www.nj.gov/health/cd

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CDC Rebrands Get Smart About Antibiotics Week

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced that the former “Get Smart About Antibiotics Week” will get a new name and look for 2017. Renamed “U.S. Antibiotics Awareness Week,” will continue to be a one-week observance (November 13-19, 2017) to raise awareness of the threat of antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use. In 2016, CDC decided to expand its target audiences and employ a broad array of new strategies and tactics for the most meaningful and effective impact, including creating a new brand for the campaign. The issue of antibiotic misuse is becoming more pressing, and there is a need to capture people’s attention and bring new life into CDC’s efforts. The original Get Smart campaign has been around for 14 years, and the communication landscape, as well as the conversation around antibiotic use, has changed considerably since it was created. Changing the name enables CDC to better align with the energy around the World Health Organization’s

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

HANDLE ANTIBIOTICS WITH CARE

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause. This is compromising our ability to treat infectious diseases and undermining many advances in medicine.

We must handle antibiotics with care so they remain effective for as long as possible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 1 Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a certified health professional
- 2 Always take the full prescription, even if you feel better
- 3 Never use left over antibiotics
- 4 Never share antibiotics with others
- 5 Prevent infections by regularly washing your hands, avoiding close contact with sick people and keeping your vaccinations up to date

www.who.int/drugresistance

#AntibioticResistance

World Health Organization

World Antibiotic Awareness Week. For more information and CDC materials to help your organization plan activities for the week, please visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/week/overview.html>.

A supply of brochures, posters and Spanish-language photonovelas are available by request from NJDOH. Contact suzanne.miro@doh.nj.gov to order a quantity. 🇺🇸

is this an effective protection against colds or flu?
Neither are antibiotics.

Antibiotics. Use them wisely – and never against colds and flu.

EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY
EUROPEAN HEALTH INITIATIVE

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CDS Welcomes New Staff!

Chika Ozodiegwu – Public Health Representative 2, Vaccines for Children Program

Ayiasha Pratt – Public Health Representative 2, Vaccine Preventable Disease Program 🇺🇸





NJDOH Wins National Award!

Congratulations to the New Jersey Department of Health for winning the 2017 Berreth Silver Award for excellence in public health communications. This award was in the Real-Time Risk Communication category for the #ZapZika public information campaign in response to the emergence of the Zika virus in the Americas. 🇺🇸



Improving Hepatitis Surveillance through Partnerships

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Communicable Disease Service (CDS) was awarded funding from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) for hepatitis B and C surveillance. NJDOH is strengthening surveillance activities, including complete case reports in the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS) to reflect the true burden of disease in New Jersey. NJDOH will be working with local health departments and other partners to ensure that the CDRSS case report, including risk factors and demographic information, is complete.

The CDC also awarded separate funding for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) to conduct and report hepatitis B and C surveillance. NJDOH plans to work with OTPs to collect information on demographics and hepatitis status, testing, and treatment for a special surveillance project. NJDOH Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services reached out to licensed OTPs about the surveillance project.

CDS looks forward to enhanced hepatitis surveillance with local health departments and partners, including OTPs. This is an exciting opportunity to gather timely information about hepatitis infection in New Jersey. 🇺🇸

Know Before You Go... #ZapZika



- ❖ Learn where Zika is active
- ❖ Use insect repellent
- ❖ Wear long sleeves and pants



www.nj.gov/health/cd/zika/ @NJDeptofHealth

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NJDOH Funds Patient Education Videos for Medical Practices

In an effort to improve adult immunization rates, the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians (NJAFP) has created a new resource for care. Funded through the New Jersey Department of Health, Vaccine Preventable Disease Program, the NJAFP created five short (three to five minutes long) videos to help educate adult patients on the benefits of being vaccinated and debunk common myths surrounding vaccines including:

- ❖ I'm healthy, therefore, I don't need vaccines
- ❖ Vaccines have toxins in them
- ❖ I'm not a kid, therefore I don't need vaccines
- ❖ If I get a flu shot, I'll get the flu, and
- ❖ Vaccines cause autism.

NJAFP's videos are intended to reach the adult population to deliver key messages on the benefits of immunization. They can be screened in almost any setting including waiting rooms, exam rooms, pharmacy retail counters, health fairs, employee break rooms, on websites, patient portals, or social media channels. The videos are available for download at <https://www.njafp.org/content/waiting-room-videos> or via downloadable files and/or DVD by emailing Joanna Zbozien at joanna@njafp.org.

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CDC's Response to Zika

ZIKA CAN PASS THROUGH SEX

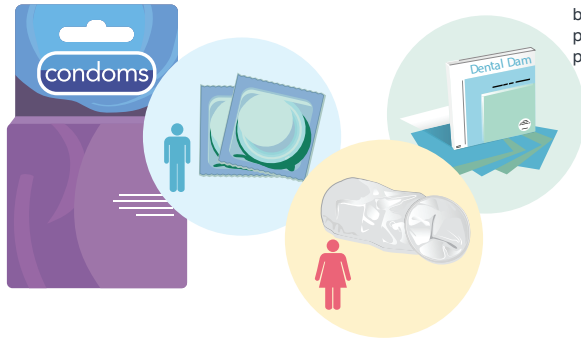


Have you or your partner been to an area with Zika?

If yes, use condoms every time you have sex.

What you should know about Zika and sex

Because the Zika virus can cause certain birth defects, take steps to prevent your partner from getting Zika during her pregnancy.



Women:
Use condoms for at least 8 weeks.
Men:
Use condoms for at least 6 months.

This is very important if your partner is pregnant.

Zika virus spreads primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito. Anyone who is sexually active and infected with Zika can pass it to their partners through sex. You can protect yourself and your partner by preventing mosquito bites and using a condom every time you have sex, or by not having sex.

If you think you may have or had Zika, tell your doctor or healthcare provider:

- About your symptoms
- If you have taken steps to prevent mosquito bites
- If you had sex without a condom with your pregnant partner



For more information:
www.cdc.gov/zika
www.nj.gov/health
#ZapZika



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CS272316-A May, 2017

C2409

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