

# Communicable Disease Newsletter

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October, 2013

## CDC issues highest threat level yet for gonorrhea

Earlier this year the CDC released an Urgent Threat Level alert for gonorrhea's drug-resisting abilities. **An urgent threat means that the bacteria is an immediate public health threat and requires urgent and aggressive action.**

The CDC reports that approximately 820,000 cases of gonorrhea occur each year in the US. Of those cases, approximately 30% are resistant to any antibiotic, 23% are resistant to tetracycline, increasingly more are becoming resistant to Cefixime (approximately 11,500 cases) and approximately 3,300 cases are now resistant to Ceftriaxone.

The CDC also estimates that if cephalosporin-resistant gonorrhea becomes widespread, the public health impact during a 10 year period would be:

- 75,000 additional cases of pelvic inflammatory disease,
- 15,000 cases of epididymitis,
- 222 additional HIV infections,
- And an elevated resulted cost of \$235 million.

The current recommended treatment for gonorrhea is Ceftriaxone 250mg IM in a single dose PLUS 1g of Azithromycin or 100 mg of Doxycycline

twice a day for seven days.

The emergence of cephalosporin resistance (e.g. Ceftriaxone) would severely limit treatment options and could devastate gonorrhea control efforts.

The Communicable Disease Unit strongly encourages the use of the recommended treatment for gonorrhea. Treatment of partners in a clinic is ideal but if impossible can be treated with patient delivered partner therapy.

If you have any questions about gonorrhea, treatment for gonorrhea, or drug-resistant gonorrhea please contact the communicable disease unit.

## October 4—National DIS Recognition Day

October 4th is the second annual National Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Recognition Day. This is an opportunity to recognize DIS throughout communities that protect the public's health. DIS were originally established to work in the field of STD prevention to investigate diseases on the ground level. DIS remain critical to the foundation of public health service and are widely regarded as the backbone of STD/HIV programs.

DIS receive extensive training on essential investigative skills including interviewing and case analysis. Today, DIS are needed even more to ensure linkage to care through expanded relationships with clinical providers.

The Communicable Disease Unit would like to thank all of you at the local level who perform DIS work for all you do. Whether it's case investigation or HIV case management, you're making a positive impact on public health!

## Monkeys clear HIV-like infection with new vaccine

A new study conducted on rhesus monkeys found that a new vaccine, developed by Dr. Louis Picker from Oregon Health and Science University, has cleared a HIV-like infection from the monkeys. The infection is known as simian immunodeficiency virus, or SIV.

Sixteen monkeys were given the vaccine and nine were able to clear the virus. Dr. Picker describes the

effect of the vaccine as, "It's like their T-cells were turned into the East German secret police, hunting down infected cells until there were none left".

An attempt to cure SIV is not uncommon. Scientists often use SIV to test vaccines due to its similarity to HIV, however; no one has ever eliminated an existing infection.

This study paved new ground for developing a HIV vaccine. Dr. Picker indicated that a human version of the vaccine for HIV should take up to three years to prepare for clinical trials.

To read more about this study please visit: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature12519.html>

### Resource: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Oropharyngeal Cancer - Fact Sheet

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has created a new fact sheet about HPV and oropharyngeal cancer. The fact sheet addresses what HPV is, how HPV is

transmitted, the relationship between HPV and oropharyngeal cancers, outcomes of oropharyngeal cancers, and prevention messages. To download a copy of the fact

sheet please visit:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPVandOralCancer.htm?s\\_CID=govd-std-024](http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPVandOralCancer.htm?s_CID=govd-std-024)

## CDC releases 2012 Tuberculosis Report

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released the 2012 TB report. Highlights of this report include:

- There was a 5.4% decrease in the reported number of active TB cases in the US from 2011 to 2012.
- Asians exceeded all other races

in reported TB infections in the US (30%).

- The case rate of TB was 1.4 per 100,000 for US-born and 15.9 per 100,000 foreign born.
- 1.1% of reported cases in the US were multi-drug resistant.
- Wyoming had the second to

lowest rate of infection in the US with 0.5 cases per 100,000 population. This is a decrease from 2011 in which the rate was 0.7 per 100,000 population.

To read this report, please visit:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/TB/statistics/reports/2012/pdf/report2012.pdf>

## WPHA Annual Education Conference

It's that time of year again. The Wyoming Public Health Association (WPHA) is hosting its Annual Education Conference on October 17-18 at the Ramada Plaza Riverside in Casper.

This year's conference will focus on community health. A special guest from the County Health Rankings will be there to discuss the rankings and how they can be used to improve health in communities.

This is a great opportunity to learn about what is hap-

pening in counties across the state, network with other public health professionals, and learn new public health information.

Please see the save the date card on the following page for more information. We hope to see you there!

<http://www.wyomingpha.org/>

# Wyoming Department of Health Condom Distribution Program

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) Albany County Public Health Communicable Disease Unit (CDU) is introducing the Condom Distribution Program!!! This program will implement a high impact prevention strategy designed to decrease incidence of HIV/STDs in Wyoming by identifying areas within Wyoming counties/communities high risk populations frequent and increase the availability, accessibility, and acceptability of condoms and condom use.

The CDU will provide communities with condom dispensers that can be seen at <http://www.capacityaidsfund.org/condoms/index.html> as well as condoms to fill the dispenser. Dispensers will be installed into local establishments that encounter high risk populations. The CDU is aiming to use this intervention to increase the amount of condoms distributed while making condoms available, accessible, and acceptable in our communities.

Family Planning and Public Health Nursing clinics have reached out in their communities and found venues for the program that include schools/community colleges, community health centers, bars/restaurants, bowling alleys, movie theatres, substance abuse treatment centers, mental health centers, and shelters. The high risk target populations include youth, MSM, HIV positives, and IDUs. The CDU will also be putting marketing messages for the Knowyo.org website on the dispensers. The Knowyo.org website is a program that provides free laboratory STD testing (clinics may charge an administration fee) to clients as a safety net system.

Community clinics that are participating in the Condom Distribution Program are:

Goshen County Public Health  
Teton County Public Health  
Niobrara Public Health  
Crook County Public Health  
Sublette County Public Health  
Casper-Natrona Health Department  
Sheridan County Public Health  
Campbell County Public Health  
Fremont County Public Health  
Platte County Public Health  
Laramie Reproductive Health  
Converse County Public Health

So far, 77 condom dispensers will be put into our Wyoming communities. If you have questions regarding the Condom Distribution Program or would like to participate, please contact Julie Newlin at [Julie.newlin@wyo.gov](mailto:Julie.newlin@wyo.gov) or 307-777-6563.

Hooray For Prevention!!



## Mini-Grants: We still have some!

We still have funds for mini-grants and encourage everyone to apply! Mini-grants are awards up to \$1,500 that can be used for communicable disease testing and prevention efforts in your community. You do not have to be a part of the Wyoming Department of Health to apply for these grants.

We know the application may look scary, but it's not and we are here to walk you through it. You can find the brochure and application at <http://www.health.wyo.gov/phsd/cds/index.html> under "Communicable Disease Prevention Funding Opportunities" right beside the big green arrow.

Previous awards have been given to conduct screening, distribute condoms during special events, education campaigns, and more. Please contact Ashley Grajczyk for additional information, questions about the application, or ideas you can do in your community!

### Save the Date



### Healthy Counties - Healthy State 2013 Annual Education Conference

**October 17th & 18th 2013, Ramada Plaza Riverside,  
Casper, WY**

Presenters include Kate Konkle, U of Wisconsin on the County Health Rankings Project and Karin Hohman of Strategic Health Concepts on the Nine Habits of Effective Coalitions  
Register at: <http://www.wyomingpha.org>

**Wyoming Public Health Association (WPHA)**

## November Calendar

11/1-11/3: CAPPA meeting—Cheyenne

11/21: Wyoming ID Webinar— 12:00-1:30

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