



# Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Section

Quarterly Newsletter  
April 2017

Volume 5, Issue 2



## Join Us – Community STD Task Force Meeting

San Bernardino County reported over 15,000 cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) with large increases in gonorrhea and syphilis, in 2016. STDs have shown a steady increase, with the county ranking among the highest in numbers of STD cases in the United States. San Bernardino County is ranked 16th among all counties in the nation for numbers of cases of chlamydia, and 25th for number of cases of gonorrhea. Youth aged 15-24 years account for nearly 60% of all new STDs reported in the County in 2016.

In an effort to reduce San Bernardino County Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) rates, the Department of Public Health is looking for partners in healthcare, schools, faith based organizations and community youth to participate in a countywide Community STD Taskforce.

The primary goals of the task force are to:

- Reduce STD rates in San Bernardino County

- Increase awareness of the impact of STDs through patient/youth education and community/stakeholder participation
- Increase prevention efforts, screening, and treatment

Please join us for a light lunch, and an opportunity to provide input and ideas that will help each of us as we work to reduce the rate of STDs while raising awareness of these preventable diseases on April 19, 2017 from 12:30PM to 4:30PM, for the first meeting of the Community STD Task Force. The meeting will be held at San Bernardino Valley College Business Building, 701 South Mt. Vernon Ave. San Bernardino, CA 92410 in the Business 100 conference room.

To register call 1-800-722-4794 and request to speak to a Health Education Specialist, or visit: <http://bit.ly/2nbokzx>.

## Immunization Spotlight

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) and Toddler Immunization Month (TIM) are annual observances that highlight the importance of routine immunizations for children two years old or younger.

The increase in measles cases or outbreaks that were reported in 2014, exemplifies the need for continued immunization efforts. The U.S. experienced a record number of measles cases; with 667 cases from 27 states reported to the Centers for disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This was the greatest number of cases in the U.S. since measles was eliminated in 2000.

In observance of NIIW and TIM, San Bernardino County:

- Encourages health care professionals to strengthen their immunization communication with parents.
- Reminds parents and caregivers to make and keep needed immunization appointments.

For additional support regarding vaccines, or to speak to a Health education specialist, call 1-800-722-4794.



## 2017 Immunization/ TB/ STD/ Epidemiology Update

The County welcomes you to attend this free seminar to learn information about new changes and pertinent information about communicable diseases.

### Topics Include:

- ◆ 2017 ACIP Immunizations
- ◆ California School Law
- ◆ California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program & California Immunization Registry (CAIR)
- ◆ TB Overview
- ◆ STD and Communicable Disease Overview

**May 3rd: Rialto & May 10th: Hesperia**

To register call: 1- 800-722-4794, and ask to speak with a Health Education Specialist.

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider #CEP-14226, for 4 contact hours.

## STD Awareness Month - April

April is STD Awareness Month and is an opportunity to call attention to dramatic increases in Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in San Bernardino County. In 2016, the County reported over 15,000 cases of STDs with large increases in gonorrhea and syphilis especially. The large increase in syphilis cases among women has caused a similar increase in infant congenital syphilis cases.

In 2012, one infant congenital syphilis case was reported, in 2015 there were four; however last year, in 2016 20 infants were born with congenital syphilis. Infants born to untreated infected women can be born with low birth weight, birth defects, blindness and hearing loss. They can also be born prematurely or be stillborn. In addition, infected infants will stay in the hospital for 10-14 days to receive treatment.

Many of the women who delivered infected infants had no symptoms and did not know they were infected with syphilis. All pregnant women should be screened for syphilis at their first visit and if positive, promptly treated with Bicillin according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines. Women at increased risk, including those with symp-

tomys of syphilis, incomplete or delayed prenatal care, a history of substance abuse, incarceration or homelessness or who have multiple partners should be screened again at the beginning of their third trimester.

In observance of STD Awareness Month, medical providers are reminded that prompt reporting of syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections allow Public Health staff to provide education, ensure treatment of infected individuals and follow up with their contacts.

County residents can protect themselves from STDs by abstaining from sex, or using condoms consistently and correctly. It is important to recognize that alcohol and drugs may lower the tendency to use condoms. Many people with STDs do not have symptoms, so it is important to request a screening test at least yearly. Having an STD makes it easier to get HIV, so it is also important to request an HIV test also.



## Scabies Prevention and Treatment

Human scabies is an infestation of the skin by the human itch mite (*Sarcoptes scabiei* var. *hominis*) that causes a hypersensitive reaction characterized by intense itching and a papular rash. Symptoms usually appear 2-6 weeks after being infected for the first time, in contrast to 1-4 days if an individual previously had scabies. It is typically spread by direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with infected individuals or contaminated fomites (inanimate objects). There are two variations of scabies: (1) Typical Scabies and (2) Crusted Scabies, which is highly contagious and presents with a scaly rash that can easily be misdiagnosed. Housing facilities with close interactions, including: nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and prisons are particularly prone to scabies outbreaks if a resident has crusted scabies.

A case of scabies can be suspected based on history and physical findings, but confirmation with skin scrapping is helpful, (though not required), for diagnosis. Scabies is often treated with chemical insecticides called scabicides. The typical topical treatment is 5% permethrin cream that is applied from the neck down

and left on for 8-10 hours. It should also be applied under the fingernails/toenails with a brush. In some cases, retreatment after 8-10 days following the first application should be considered to catch newly hatched mites and prevent reinfection. Crusted scabies should be treated with a combination of oral and topical agents, often requiring multiple administrations of both agents. Persons who have had close contact with infected individuals must also be identified for prophylactic treatment to ensure re-infection does not occur. It is common for the itching and rash associated with scabies to continue for a month following treatment, even though the mites have been eliminated.

Other actions to decrease environmental exposure include: washing bedding, towels and clothing in hot water or placing in dryer for 20 minutes on "hot" setting, sealing non-washable items in a plastic bag for one week, and vacuuming carpet and furniture. Close follow-up by a trained professional is also recommended as the individual could become reinfected or develop a superimposed bacterial infection.

Confidential Morbidity Reports (CMRs) can be found on our website, <http://bit.ly/2jmQRct>, and should be faxed to: (909) 387-6377. **For HIV CMRs call before faxing.** To report suspect or confirmed cases of TB to the Tuberculosis Control Program, please fill out a TB case/suspect form, <http://bit.ly/2j1k1IO>, for your hospitalized or clinic patient and fax to: (909) 387-6377. Follow-up with a phone call to one of our TB nurses at: 1-800-722-4794.



**April 19**

Community STD Task Force Meeting:  
San Bernardino

**April 22-29**

National Infant Immunization Week

**April 27**

Immunization Skills Institute  
training: Hesperia

**May**

Toddler Immunization Month

**May 3**

2017 Immunization/TB/STD/ Epidemiology Update: Rialto

**May 10**

2017 Immunization/TB/STD/ Epidemiology Update: Hesperia



**Immunization Skills Institute** is a free innovative course that will train medical assistants on current, effective and caring immunization techniques.

For registration information contact a Health Education Specialist at:

1-800-722-4794



## Communicable Disease Section

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