



Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency
**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
of Northwest Michigan

Health Department of Northwest Michigan

Physician's Update

Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH, Medical Director

Summer 2008

(231) 547-7679 j.meyerson@nwhealth.org



Vol. 6 No. 3

Immunization Update

Shingles Vaccine Available

Zostavax, the live attenuated Varicella virus vaccine to protect against shingles, is now available at the Health Department. Zoster vaccine is recommended for all persons aged ≥ 60 years who have no contraindications, including persons who report a previous episode of zoster or who have chronic medical conditions.

Overall, shingles vaccine reduces the risk of shingles by about 50% and the risk of developing postherpetic neuralgia by about 66%. The vaccine is more effective in younger (60-69 years) age groups and has decreasing efficacy in older individuals. It is indicated only for prevention and is not effective for the treatment of zoster or post herpetic neuralgia.

Travel Recommendations for Measles Vaccine

The recent surge of Measles cases in the U.S., including 4 cases from the Cadillac, MI area, has been attributed to imported cases from abroad. There are numerous outbreaks worldwide that are ongoing, including several in developed countries such as Switzerland and Israel. The CDC is now recommending that all travelers should have immunity to Measles.

Individuals are considered immune by either receiving two doses of MMR vaccine (separated by at least 28 days), laboratory evidence of immunity, documented Measles diagnosis by a physician, or if they were born before 1957. If immunity cannot be established then they should receive 2 doses of MMR spaced 28 days apart.

Rotavirus Activity Diminished

In Feb. 2006 Rotavirus Vaccine was recommended for routine use in infants. The CDC analyzed data from the 2007-2008 season and compared it to seasons spanning 1991-2006. **Comparatively, there was delayed onset of Rotavirus activity by 2-4 months and the magnitude of activity was diminished by over 50%.** The full text is available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr Vol 57, No. 25.

New Vaccine Products Licensed

Three new vaccines were recently licensed and approved for use in children:

Pentacel (DTaP-Hib-IPV) for administration as a 4 dose series at 2, 4 and 6, and 15-18 months of age.

Kinrix (DTap-IPV) for the fifth DTaP and fourth dose IPV in 4 to 6 year olds whose previous DTaP vaccine doses have been with INFANRIX and/or PEDIARIX.

Rotarix (Rotavirus Vaccine) for administration as a 2 dose series at 2 and 4 months.

The ACIP has recommended these vaccines be added to the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program and they should be available to order through the Michigan VFC sometime in August or September.

RESTRICTIONS ON BLOOD PRESSURE DEVICES CONTAINING MERCURY

Michigan's Public Act 493 of 2006 restricts the availability and use of mercury-based blood pressure measurement equipment and may require health professionals to revise office equipment and possibly clinical procedures.

Specific provisions in the law include:

- Beginning January 1, 2008, selling or receiving mercury manometers is prohibited in Michigan.
- Effective January 1, 2009, mercury manometers cannot be used by health care professionals to measure blood pressure in individuals.
- However, mercury manometers can be used in the State of Michigan after January 1, 2009 if the device was purchased prior to the effective date of the legislation (i.e., before 12/29/06), **and**
 - ✓ The mercury manometer is used exclusively in a private residence for assessing blood pressure, **or**
 - ✓ The mercury manometer is used exclusively for the purpose of checking the calibration of blood pressure equipment in a healthcare facility. When not in use, these manometers must be locked in an area not accessible to the public.

It is important that concerns regarding mercury and its waste be balanced with the importance of assuring accurate blood pressure measurements. Mercury-based blood pressure manometers are considered the gold standard for blood pressure measurement by the American Heart Association (AHA) because of their consistent accuracy. Public Act 493 does allow their continued use to check the accuracy of non-mercury blood pressure measurement equipment.

For more information go to www.michigan.gov/cvh



Communicable Diseases April—June 2008

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Antrim</u>	<u>Charlevoix</u>	<u>Emmet</u>	<u>Otsego</u>	<u>Total</u>
Campylobacter	0	0	0	1	1
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	0	0	1
Meningitis - Aseptic	1	0	0	0	1
Meningitis - Bacterial Other	0	0	0	1	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Inv	0	1	0	0	1
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	1	1	2
Cryptococcosis	1	0	0	0	1
Flu Like Disease	160	70	756	143	1129
Influenza	0	0	0	1	1
Chlamydia (Genital)	3	5	10	8	26
Gonorrhea	1	1	0	0	2
Chickenpox (Varicella)	1	2	8	2	13
H. influenzae Disease - Inv.	0	0	1	0	1
Pertussis	1	2	0	0	3
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis B, Chronic	0	0	1	1	2
Hepatitis C, Chronic	3	2	3	4	12
Total	171	83	781	164	1199

To report STDs or HIV,
contact
**Bert Notestine at
347-5022,
or use our secure fax
231-547-0460.**

To report a Communicable
Disease to the Health
Department:

**Emmet and Antrim
Counties:**

Pat Guillaume, RN
231-347-5636

Otsego County:

Sandy Tarbutton, RN
989-732-6869

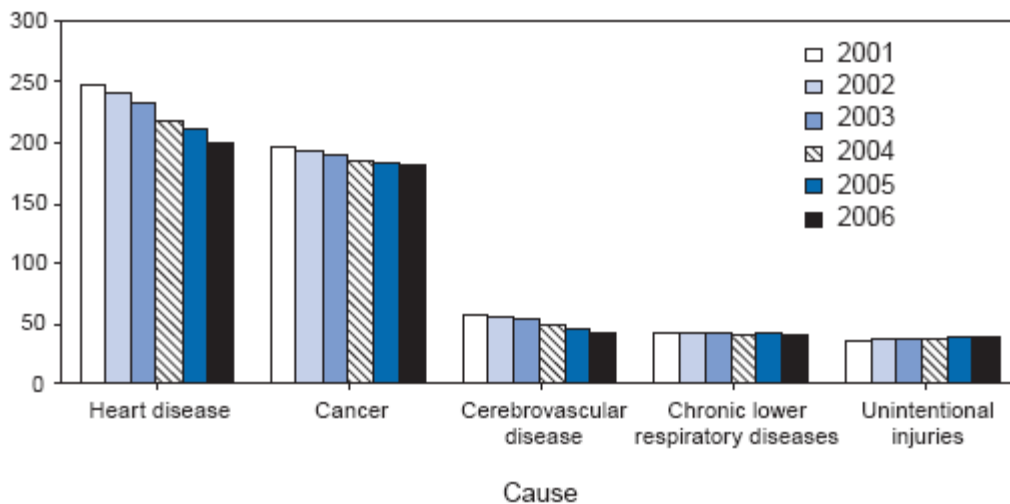
Charlevoix County:

Marley Niewendorp
231-547-7631

OR

**Send a secure fax 24
hours / day:
231-547-0460**

Quick Stats: Age-Adjusted Death Rates for the Five Leading Causes of Death --- United States, 2001--2006



Per 100,000 population
Source: MMWR Weekly June 27, 2008/Vol. 57/No. 25