



October 2011

Public Health

Listeria:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are investigating a multistate outbreak of listeriosis in coordination with state and local health departments. The outbreak started in the late summer and collaborative investigations by local, state, and federal public health and regulatory agencies indicate the source of the outbreak is whole cantaloupe grown at Jensen Farms' production fields in Granada, Colorado. As of September 29 2011, a total of 84 cases of *Listeria monocytogenes* have been reported in 19 states. Fifteen deaths have been reported. All illnesses started on or after July 31, 2011.

Arizona was among 25 states that received shipments of the Colorado cantaloupes. The cantaloupes were recalled on September 14, 2011. As of this time Arizona has not identified any cases of *Listeria* associated with cantaloupe consumption. Since patients can develop listeriosis up to 2 months after eating contaminated food, cases related to this outbreak may continue to be reported through October.

Listeriosis is a serious infection caused by eating food contaminated with the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*. The disease primarily affects older adults, persons with weakened immune systems, pregnant women, and newborns. Rarely, persons without these risk factors can also be affected.

If a health care provider suspects listeria infection, a specimen should be obtained from a normally sterile site, such as blood, or from amniotic fluid or the placenta in the setting of pregnancy as well as **inform the local public health department.** (<http://azdhs.gov/phs/oids/contacts.htm#L>)

More information about listeriosis and recommendations to reduce the risk of getting listeriosis from food are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/listeria/>.

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West Nile Virus (WNV) Update:

As of 9/26/2011, Arizona has had 6 confirmed human cases and 23 probable cases (24 in Maricopa, 3 in Pima, 1 in Pinal and 1 in Yavapai). A total of 127 pools across Arizona have tested positive for WNV (103 in Maricopa, 11 in Pinal, 7 in Yuma, 1 in Coconino, 1 in Mohave and 4 in Pima).

Influenza:

Arizona's Influenza Activity Status: **SPORADIC**

Stop the spread! The best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccination. Contact Associate Health and Wellness (Employee Health) to receive your vaccine.

Preventing Catheter Associate Urinary Tract Infections:

Health Acquired-CAUTI's are the most common healthcare associated infection-accounting for 30-40% of hospital associated infections. Over 600,000 patients develop hospital acquired UTI per year, 80% are catheter associated. 5-25% of hospitalized patients will receive a urinary catheter during course of their treatment. Indwelling urinary catheters are considered to be the most significant risk factor for healthcare associated UTI's especially in the chronically ill. Studies have shown ~20% of catheterized patients may be expected to become infected. HA-CAUTI's are associated with increased morbidity, mortality, length of stay and cost. As of October 1, 2008, CMS is no longer reimbursing hospitals for costs associated with HA-CAUTI.

Each day the urinary catheter remains in place, the risk of CAUTI increases by 5%. SCIP 9 (Surgical Care Improvement Project) now requires Urinary catheters to be removed on Postoperative Day 1 (POD 1) or Postoperative Day 2 (POD 2) with day of surgery being day zero. If not removed, specific reason why it is left in place must be documented.

The Joint Commission has approved one new National Patient Safety Goal for 2012 that focuses on catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) for the hospital and critical access hospital accreditation programs. Effective January 1, 2012 the new goal, NPSG.07.06.01, states: Implement evidence-based practices to prevent indwelling catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI). One of the elements of performance requires "Limiting use and duration to situations necessary for patient care". Daily assessment for necessity of catheter is required to meet this specific element of performance.

The new NPSG includes the following intervention designed to eliminate CAUTI using established evidence based guidelines:

- Insertion indwelling urinary catheters
- Limiting use and duration to situations necessary for patient care
- Using aseptic techniques for site preparation, equipment, and supplies
- Securing catheters for unobstructed urine flow and drainage
- Maintaining the sterility of urine collection system and collection of urine samples
- Replacing the urine collection system required

CARONDELET HEALTH NETWORK INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

CSM/HCH: 872-1433

CSJ: 873-6574

CHVI: 696-2510

**October 16-22, 2011 represents the 25th Anniversary of
International Infection Prevention Week—the
commemoration of the importance of infection prevention
around the globe.**

Since 1986, when President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed the third week of October as National Infection Control Week, APIC (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology) has led the annual effort to highlight the infection prevention profession and their ongoing work to improve patient outcomes and reduce infections.

Over the years, this week of recognition has vastly expanded to every corner of the globe, including Australia, the United Kingdom, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. As the reach of IIPW widens, more patients benefit from safer healthcare practices and reduced threat of healthcare-associated infections.

During IIPW, APIC organizes programs to honor the hard work of infection preventionists and raise awareness among other healthcare workers, administrators, government officials, and consumers about the importance of preventing infections.

Facts about your Carondelet Health Network Infection Preventionists:

- Over 75 years of combined years of experience in Infection Prevention and Control
- All 7 Infection Preventionists (IP) are certified by the Certification Board of Infection Control and are members of APIC
- 4 IPs are nurses and 3 are Microbiologists/Medical Technologists
- 4 IPs have advanced degrees (PhD, MBA and MSN)
- All 7 IPs are committed to improving patient outcomes by using evidence based strategies that eliminate health care acquired infections

