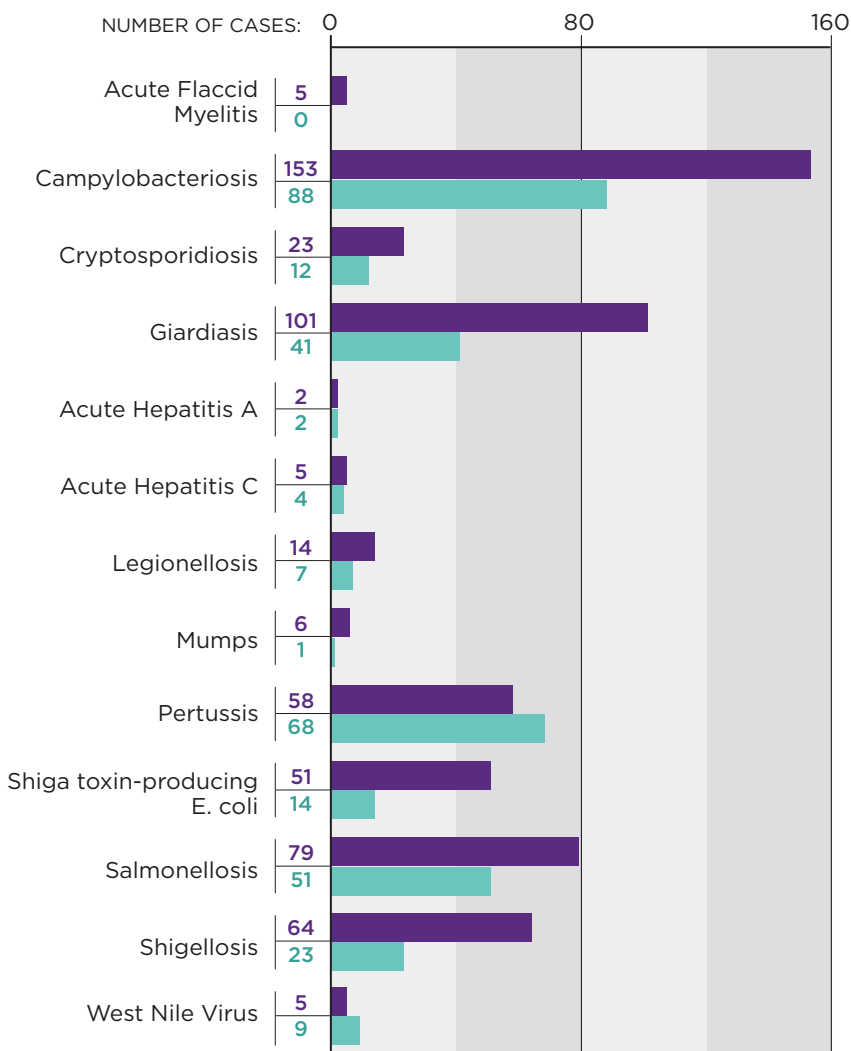


“What Goes Around” is a new quarterly report featuring communicable diseases* from Denver Public Health, who receives and investigates reports of these illnesses to help prevent their spread. We hope you benefit from learning how common these illnesses are and advice about their diagnosis, reporting and management.

INCIDENCE IN DENVER COUNTY OF REPORTED, LAB-CONFIRMED CASES OF SELECT DISEASES

Jan - Sept. 2018

■ 2018 ■ 5-year median



This chart shows the occurrence of diseases that were reported to a provider and also confirmed by a lab.
Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

COLORADO HEPATITIS A ALERT:

Diagnose, Report, Vaccinate!

Clinicians are asked to be vigilant for Hepatitis A given a current outbreak centered on El Paso County and very large outbreaks continuing in other states. Many cases are occurring in people experiencing homelessness or injecting drugs, but infection spreads easily to any non-immune person by fecal-oral transmission (contaminated food or drink, poor hand hygiene, or sexual activity).

Clinicians should suspect and test immediately for Hepatitis A IgM in anyone with unexplained signs of liver inflammation (e.g., malaise, abdominal pain, jaundice, fever) and report confirmed OR SUSPECT cases within one day to the local or state health department. Rapid disease reporting enables public health agencies to limit the spread of disease. Disease suspects or cases should not handle food, work in healthcare settings or engage in sexual contact pending diagnosis and appropriate waiting periods.

Infection can be prevented by vaccination. Prompt active or passive vaccination of household and intimate contacts can reduce the risk of infection. All people experiencing homelessness aged 1 and older should be vaccinated as soon as possible, along with other higher risk groups and all children. Further guidance is available at <https://www.denverpublichealth.org/clinics-services/immunization/resources/hepatitis-a>

Low to no cost vaccinations are available at the Denver Public Health Immunization Clinic. Denver Public Health Disease Investigation nurses are available to receive disease reports or answer questions at **303-602-3614**.

We can be reached at 303-602-3639 from 8-4:30 workdays (or after hours at 303-602-3614). Send any questions or suggestions to Ola Bovin, RN, Regional Epidemiologist at ola.bovin@dhha.org

*Tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases are currently managed separately. We are investigating adding them to this newsletter.