



# Epi Update

A newsletter for healthcare professionals in Platte County, MO

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7

JULY 12, 2017

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Don't get a tick-borne illness when you are outside this summer. Prevent tick bites!
- Did you know? PCHD can facilitate testing animals for rabies at the state public health lab
- Do you have backyard poultry? Take steps to avoid getting *Salmonella*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Spotlight PCHD 2  
Rabies Testing
- Salmonella* and 2  
Live Poultry
- June 3  
CD Report
- References 3

For more information or questions about Epi Update, contact Erin Sanders, PCHD Epidemiology Specialist at: (816) 858-2412

## Steps to Prevent Tickborne Illness

**Before going outside**, put on an [EPA-registered insect repellent](#) containing DEET or other effective ingredient, especially if you are going to spend time in a grassy, brushy, or wooded area or around animals. Treat clothing and gear with products containing permethrin. If possible, avoid areas of overhanging brush and tall grass, where ticks perch to wait until a suitable host brushes against the vegetation.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Reduce ticks in your yard** by cutting grass and laying chips or gravel down to create [tick-safe zones](#).<sup>3</sup> Consider using a chemical control agent to reduce ticks in your yard. Use tick control products on your pets to prevent them from bringing ticks into the home.<sup>1,2</sup>

**After coming inside**, check your clothing for ticks and remove them. Drying clothes on high heat for 10 minutes will kill ticks on dry clothing. Shower soon after being outdoors, and check your body for ticks using a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body. Attached ticks are frequently found around the head, neck, underarms, and groin.<sup>1,2</sup>

**If you find an attached tick**, [remove it](#) as soon as you notice it. Grasp the tick with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pull the tick straight out. If you have recently **had a tick bite** or **been exposed to an area with ticks**, watch for **signs of illness** over the next couple weeks such as a sudden fever, rash, severe headache, muscle or joint aches, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Contact your health care provider if you notice any of these symptoms and advise them of your recent tick exposure.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Look Out: Missouri Ticks that Transmit Disease

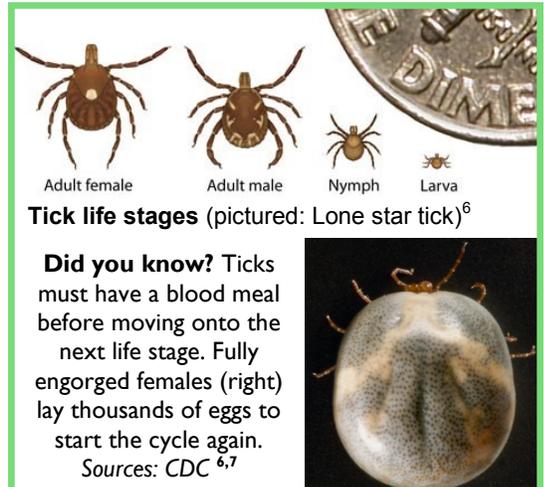
**American dog tick** – Also called the wood tick, bites most often during spring and summer. Adult females (right) are most likely to bite humans.<sup>4</sup>

**Transmits:** [Rocky Mountain spotted fever](#), [Tularemia](#)



**Lone star tick** – A very aggressive tick. Saliva can be irritating and may cause redness and discomfort at the bite site but does not necessarily indicate an infection. Nymph and adult females frequently bite humans and spread disease.<sup>5</sup>

**Transmits:** [Ehrlichiosis](#), Tularemia, [Heartland Virus](#), [Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness \(STARI\)](#)



Tick life stages (pictured: Lone star tick)<sup>6</sup>

**Did you know?** Ticks must have a blood meal before moving onto the next life stage. Fully engorged females (right) lay thousands of eggs to start the cycle again.

Sources: CDC<sup>6,7</sup>

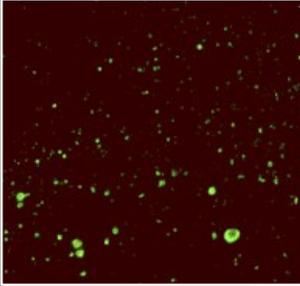
### Emerging Diseases:

A case of **Bourbon Virus** was [recently diagnosed](#) in a Missouri resident.<sup>8</sup> Learn what you need to know about the Bourbon and **Heartland Viruses** [here](#).<sup>9</sup>





## Spotlight PCHD



A picture of a positive direct fluorescent antibody test for rabies

Source: CDC<sup>12</sup>

## Spotlight on Rabies Testing

**Did you know that the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) can test animals for rabies?** Rabies testing may need to be done on any mammal that had potential to transmit disease to a human or pet through a traumatic exposure (such as a bite or scratch). In Missouri, health care providers are required to [report all animal bites](#) (mammals to human) to the local health department so that these exposures can be assessed for rabies risk.<sup>10</sup>

**How do you test for rabies?** The only way to test animals for rabies is by examining the brain matter. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may undergo a 10 day quarantine period after an animal bite occurs in lieu of rabies testing. Animals that cannot undergo quarantine or begin exhibiting symptoms compatible with rabies during quarantine may be submitted to the MSPHL for rabies testing. Animals to be tested must meet the requirements of the MSPHL's [animal rabies testing policy](#).<sup>11</sup>

**PCHD Environmental Health Staff help facilitate the submission of rabies testing specimens to the MSPHL.** Residents or veterinarians who wish to submit an animal for rabies testing should [contact PCHD by phone at 816-858-2412](#). Animals to be tested for rabies must be presented to a veterinarian for euthanasia and removal of the head before submission (very small animals such as bats should be shipped without removal of the head, veterinarians can consult PCHD upon calling). Once specimens are prepared, PCHD staff will pick up the specimen and package it for the MSPHL courier, which comes to PCHD's Parkville location Mon-Fri. Any specimens that PCHD is unable to deliver before the courier pick-up time of 3:05 pm may need to be kept by the veterinarian (in refrigeration, but NOT frozen) until the next business day.

For more information on rabies testing, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycaptfjh> or <http://health.mo.gov/lab/rabies.php>.

## Salmonella and Backyard Flocks

The CDC is currently investigating [8 multistate outbreaks](#) of nearly **400 Salmonella infections** this year linked to contact with poultry in backyard flocks. Cases involved in these outbreaks have reported purchasing **live baby poultry** from several sources, including **feed supply stores, websites, hatcheries, and relatives**. If you have a backyard flock (or spend time around one), **learn how to protect yourself from future illness**.<sup>13,14</sup>

- **Always wash your hands** with soap and water immediately after touching or handling live poultry, anything in the area where they live, or any clothes or shoes that have touched live poultry
- **Supervise young children** around live poultry and while washing their hands afterwards
- **Do not let live poultry into your home**, especially anywhere food or drink is prepared, served, or stored
- Do not snuggle or kiss birds, touch your mouth, or **eat or drink** around poultry or where they live or roam
- **Stay outdoors when cleaning** equipment or materials used to care for live poultry
- When **collecting and handling eggs** from a backyard flock, make sure you follow these [safe handling tips](#)
- Children **under the age of 5**, **adults older than 65**, and people with **weakened immune systems** should not handle chicks, ducklings, or other live poultry, due to their higher risk for severe illness from *Salmonella* infections



According to the CDC, a record number of *Salmonella* illnesses were linked to backyard poultry in 2016.<sup>13</sup>

# Communicable Disease Report

**Notable this month:** Reporting was above average in the month of June, particularly for animal bites and gastrointestinal diseases. Diseases reported this month included 3 campylobacteriosis, 1 cryptosporidiosis, 1 *E. coli* O157:H7, 1 yersiniosis, 1 invasive *Haemophilus influenzae*, and 2 pertussis.

Reportable Diseases June 2017		YTD*						5 YR AVG†
		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	
Animal Bites	10	40	16	29	17	18	20	20
Gastrointestinal Diseases	8	20	25	22	13	21	8	18
Hepatitis	11	47	37	40	31	36	49	39
STD	4	39	23	23	26	19	52	29
Tuberculosis	3	17	40	16	19	40	19	27
Other	10	57	36	36	46	38	58	43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>175</b>

\*Year-to-date (counts reflect total cases January through June of the given year)

† Five year average is of YTD counts for years 2012-2016.

Please note that categories are grouped communicable diseases or conditions, most of which are mandatory by law to report (see links below). Totals reported for each category represent total number of reports and inquiries to the health department, not total number of cases.

Categories: Animal bites category includes any type of bite. Gastrointestinal Disease category includes all reportable GI diseases. Hepatitis category could include chronic or acute infections of Hepatitis A, B or C. Sexually Transmitted Disease category includes all reportable STDs other than Hepatitis. Tuberculosis category includes all reports, calls/ inquiries, requests for previous records, etc., regarding active or latent cases of TB. Other category includes reports or inquiries regarding individual diseases that do not fit previous categories.

List of Reportable Diseases & Conditions: <http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/communicabledisease/pdf/reportablediseaselist2.pdf>

Rules of Department of Health and Senior Services - Division 20—Division of Community and Public Health Chapter 20—Communicable Diseases: <http://s1.sos.mo.gov/cmsimages/adrules/csr/current/19csr/19c20-20.pdf>

## References

1. CDC. Stop Ticks. Jun 19, 2017. Retrieved 2017, Jul 7 from <https://www.cdc.gov/features/stopticks/index.html>
2. MDHSS. Tick-Borne Disease. Retrieved 2017, Jul 7 from <http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/tickscarrydisease/index.php>
3. CDC. Preventing Ticks in the Yard. Jan 7, 2016. Retrieved 2017, Jul 7 from [https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/prev/in\\_the\\_yard.html](https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/prev/in_the_yard.html)
4. CDC. American dog tick. Oct 23, 2014. Retrieved 2017, Jul 7 from <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickbornediseases/american-dog-tick.html>
5. CDC. Lone star tick. Oct 23, 2014. Retrieved 2017, Jul 7 from <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickbornediseases/lone-star-tick.html>
6. CDC. STARI or Lyme? Oct 22, 2015. Retrieved 2017, Jul 7 from <https://www.cdc.gov/stari/disease/index.html>
7. Gathany, James. CDC Public Health Image Library: ID# 8679. 2006. Retrieved 2017, Jul 7 from <https://phil.cdc.gov/phil/details.asp>
8. MDHSS. News Release: Bourbon virus and other tick-borne diseases in Missouri. Jun 30, 2017. Retrieved 2017, Jul 7 from <http://health.mo.gov/information/news/2017/bourbonvirus63017>
9. MDHSS. Heartland Virus and Bourbon Virus: What Do I Need to Know? Retrieved 2017, Jul 7 from <http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/tickscarrydisease/pdf/HeartlandBourbonVirus.pdf>
10. MDHSS. Animal bites/Injuries. <http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/communicabledisease/cdmanual/pdf/AnimalBites.pdf>
11. MDHSS. Animal rabies testing policy. Jun 30, 2010. Retrieved 2017, Jul 10 from [http://health.mo.gov/lab/pdf/rabies\\_testing\\_policy.pdf](http://health.mo.gov/lab/pdf/rabies_testing_policy.pdf)
12. CDC. Direct fluorescent antibody test. Apr 22, 2011. Retrieved 2017, Jul 11 from [https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/diagnosis/direct\\_fluorescent\\_antibody.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/diagnosis/direct_fluorescent_antibody.html)
13. CDC. Multistate Outbreaks of Human Salmonella Infections Linked to Live Poultry in Backyard Flocks, 2017. Jun 1, 2017. Retrieved 2017, Jul 10 from <https://www.cdc.gov/zoonotic/qi/outbreaks/livepoultry.html>
14. CDC. Keeping backyard poultry. Jun 7, 2017. Retrieved 2017, Jul 10 from <https://www.cdc.gov/Features/SalmonellaPoultry/index.html>

## Platte County Health Department

### North

212 Marshall Road  
Platte City, MO 64079  
(816)858-2412  
Fax (816)858-2087

### South

1201 East Street  
Parkville, MO 64152  
(816)587-5998  
Fax (816)587-6028

## Services Provided

- Disease Surveillance
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Health
  - *Restaurant & Septic Inspections*
- Health Education
- Special Deliveries Program
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Vital Records
  - *Birth & Death Certificates*
- Family Healthcare Clinic
  - *Physician*
  - *Nurse Practitioner*
- Walk-In Clinic
  - *Adult/Child /Travel Vaccinations*
  - *HIV/STD Testing*
  - *Pregnancy Testing*

Find us online at:

[plattecountyhealthdept.com](http://plattecountyhealthdept.com)

Facebook  
Like Us

Twitter

Our Blog