



# The Pump Handle

**May 2019**

**"I had an interview with the Board of Guardians of St. James's parish, on the evening of Thursday, 7th September, and represented the above circumstances to them. In consequence of what I said, the handle of the pump was removed on the following day."**

John Snow, 1855

## **Topics**

- National HIV Testing Day – Sarah Weninger
- Measles Update – Jenny Galbraith
- Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Infections Linked to Raw Turkey Products – Laura Cronquist
- Updated Field Epidemiologist Regions – Brenton Nesemeier



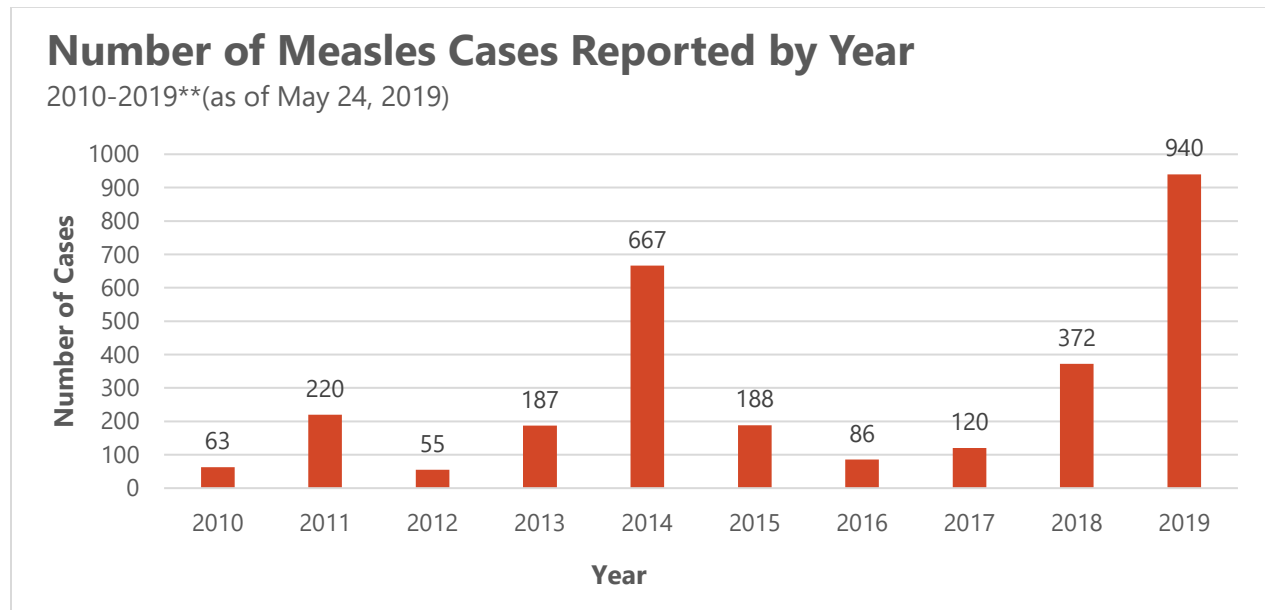
## **National HIV Testing Day**

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day, a day to encourage individuals to get tested for HIV, know their status and get linked to care and treatment if they have HIV. About 1.1 million people in the United States have HIV and 1 in 7 of them don't know. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV and least once as part of routine health care and those at risk get tested at least once a year. Health care providers are encouraged to review their patient's HIV testing and ensure that patients know their status and are screened at appropriate intervals. The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), along with public health and health care communities, will continue to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing and the early diagnosis of HIV. For more information about HIV, please visit [www.ndhealth.gov/HIV](http://www.ndhealth.gov/HIV).



## **Measles Update**

According to the CDC, in 2018, 372 cases of measles were reported across North America. As of May 24, 2019, 940 cases of measles have been confirmed in 26 states. Ninety percent of the infected individuals have not been vaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status. Seventy-five percent of the cases are related to outbreaks in New York City and New York State.



Measles is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. Symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose and watery eyes followed by a rash that typically spreads from the head to the rest of the body. The incubation period is generally eight to 12 days, but can be up to 21 days, with the first symptom generally being a fever. The measles rash usually appears two to three days after the fever begins and people are contagious from four days before, to four days after rash onset. Measles is highly contagious and spreads easily by coughing, sneezing or even being in the same room with someone who has measles.

All children are recommended to be vaccinated against measles at ages 12 to 15 months and 4 to 6 years. Measles is included in a combination vaccine with mumps and rubella (known as MMR vaccine). All adults born in 1957 or later should have at least one dose of MMR vaccine. All health care workers should have two doses of MMR vaccine. Data shows that North Dakota's rate for MMR vaccination for kindergarten entry for the 2018-2019 school year was 93.63, and the goal is at least 95%. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or contact the NDDoH at 701-328-2378.



## **Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Infections Linked to Raw Turkey Products**

The NDDoH investigated two cases of salmonellosis that were part of a multistate outbreak of multi-drug resistant *Salmonella* Reading linked to raw turkey products. The CDC released a final update for this outbreak investigation on April 30, 2019. As of April 22, 2019, 358 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* have been reported from 42 states and the District of Columbia. Illnesses started on dates ranging from November 20, 2017, to March 31, 2019. Ill people ranged in age from less than 1 year to 101 years, with a median age of 42. Forty-eight percent of ill people were female. Of 302 people with information available, 133 (44%) were hospitalized. One death was reported from California. The Public Health Agency of Canada also identified ill people in Canada who were infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella*.

*Salmonella* bacteria are one of the most common causes of foodborne illness in the United States, causing approximately 1.2 million illnesses each year. *Salmonella* infection (salmonellosis) typically causes diarrhea, fever, and abdominal pain. Symptoms usually begin within 12 to 72 hours after ingesting the bacteria, but can take as long as 16 days. Symptoms generally resolve without treatment in four to seven days, but severe cases and cases involving complications may require hospitalization. Antibiotics are recommended only for those who have a serious illness (e.g., bloodstream infection, severe diarrhea) or who are considered at high risk for serious disease or complications, including infants, adults over 65 years old, and people with impaired immune systems.

Epidemiologic and laboratory evidence gathered by state and federal public health and regulatory agencies indicated that a variety of turkey products from many different sources are contaminated with *Salmonella* Reading and are making people sick. The outbreak strain of *Salmonella* was isolated from samples of assorted raw turkey products, raw turkey pet food, and live turkeys. No single, common supplier of raw turkey products or live turkeys was identified. It appears that the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Reading is present in the turkey industry and may continue to cause illnesses. Consumers should be aware that eating undercooked turkey or touching raw turkey, including packaged raw pet food, can make them sick.

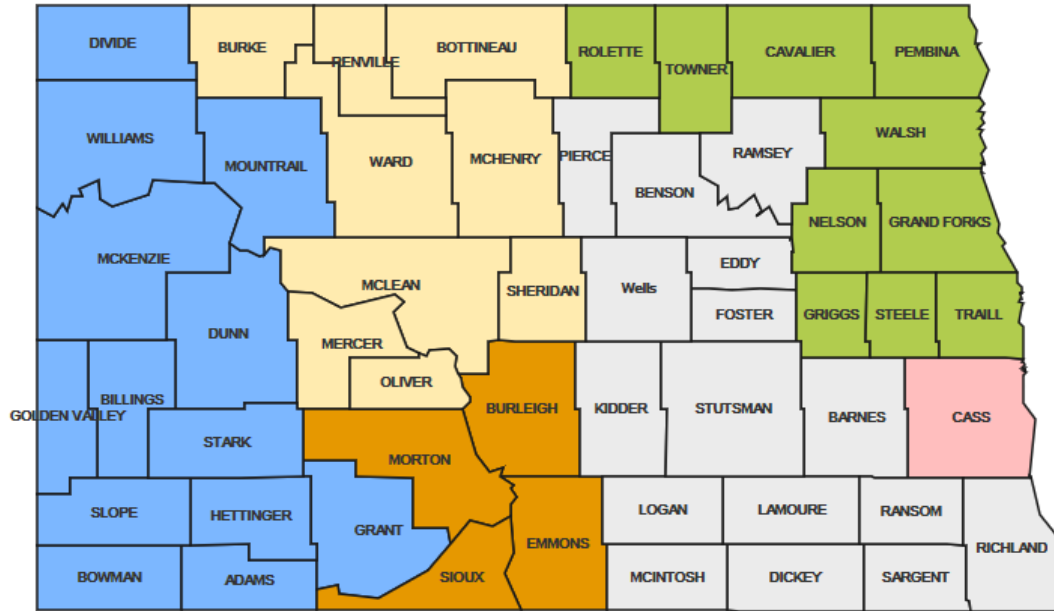
For additional information about the multi-drug resistant *Salmonella* Reading infection outbreak linked to raw turkey, please visit the CDC's [website](#) or contact Laura Cronquist, NDDoH, at 701-328-2378.



## **Updated Field Epidemiologist Regions**

The NDDoH Division of Disease Control has recently undergone changes in the number of field epidemiologists, with the retirement of longtime employee, Gerry Haag. Field epidemiologists are responsible for investigating cases of reportable infectious conditions in North Dakota. Below you will find an updated field epidemiologist coverage map which is effective June 2019.

Many considerations were taken into effect when developing the new regions including morbidity, region size, and ease of access to electronic records. If you have suggestions for what information you would like to receive from your field epidemiologist or how often you would like to hear from him/her, please share that feedback with him/her or with their supervisor, Brenton Nesemeier at [bneseimeier@nd.gov](mailto:bneseimeier@nd.gov).



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