

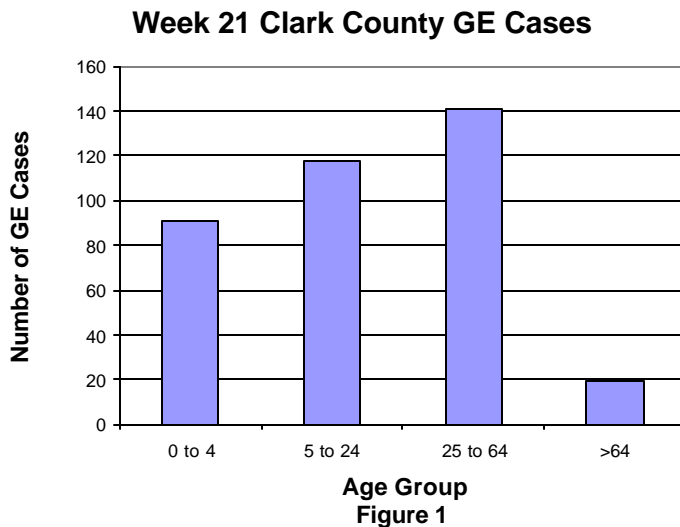


Office of Epidemiology  
Gastroenteritis Surveillance Program

Date: June 9, 2000  
To: Health Care Providers  
From: Patricia Rowley, BS, Surveillance Coordinator  
Subject: Report for week ending May 28, 2000 (Week 21).

The Clark County Health District Gastroenteritis Surveillance Program began data collection on May 15, 2000 (week 20). This is an ongoing program and is open to new participants. Health care providers wishing to participate as sentinel sites for the surveillance program should contact Patricia Rowley, Surveillance Coordinator, at (702) 383-1378.

Thirty sentinel sites reported during week 21 (May 21-28). A total of 369 cases of gastroenteritis (GE), were reported, which is 2.9% of the 12,660 patients seen that week. Persons experiencing diarrhea or vomiting not explained by a chronic condition were counted as cases. Figure 1 shows the distribution of cases by age.



Clark County has experienced a marked increase in the number of cases of enteric illnesses in the first five months of this year. Table 1 shows the number of cases by month for 2000, and Table 2 shows the comparison to last year. The column “1999 Year to Date” is the cumulative number to the end of May 1999.

Identifying sources of enteric diseases is difficult. Several cases of *Salmonella* and *Shigella* that occurred in Clark County this year were linked to multi-state outbreaks and some cases of shigellosis occurred among attendees of childcare facilities. However, most of the infections appear to be sporadic.

Infections with *Campylobacter* are frequently associated with a newly acquired pet puppy or kitten. Nationwide, there has been a strong association with chicks and ducklings purchased for the Easter holiday. One of the Clark County cases did have a history of association with baby chicks and ducklings purchased two days before onset of illness.

**Table 1: Enteric Disease Occurrence, Clark County 2000**

Disease	January	February	March	April	May
<b>Botulism</b>	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Campylobacteriosis</b>	6	4	13	4	12
<b>Cryptosporidiosis</b>	0	0	2	0	0
<b>E-Coli 0157:H7</b>	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Giardiasis</b>	9	4	17	7	9
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	4	3	8	3	7
<b>Listeriosis</b>	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Rotavirus</b>	82	138	43	52	12
<b>Salmonellosis</b>	7	9	6	15	18
<b>Shigellosis</b>	9	23	8	7	7
<b>Yersiniosis</b>	0	2	0	1	0

**Table 2: Enteric Diseases, Clark County, 1999 -- 2000**

Disease	Cases Reported		Year to Date	
	May-99	May-00	1999	2000
<b>Botulism</b>	0	1	0	1
<b>Campylobacteriosis</b>	7	12	24	39
<b>Cryptosporidiosis</b>	0	0	1	2
<b>E-Coli 0157:H7</b>	0	0	0	1
<b>Giardiasis</b>	8	9	30	46
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	5	7	46	25
<b>Listeriosis</b>	0	1	0	1
<b>Rotavirus</b>	12	42	383	263
<b>Salmonellosis</b>	6	18	44	55
<b>Shigellosis</b>	4	7	11	54
<b>Yersiniosis</b>	1	1	3	3

The Nevada Administrative Code requires that persons infected with various enteric pathogens be excluded from working in sensitive occupations until fecal specimens (taken at least 48 hours after cessation of antimicrobial therapy) are culture negative for these bacteria. Sensitive occupations include food or beverage handlers, childcare workers, and persons working in some medical occupations. An infant or child excreting these pathogens must be excluded from a childcare facility or school until asymptomatic. For some illnesses such as salmonellosis and shigellosis, household contacts of infected persons must also be excluded from working in sensitive occupations. Infected persons (or household contacts) working in sensitive occupations or infected children enrolled in childcare facilities can be referred to the Office of Epidemiology at Clark County Health District for follow up testing.

If you have questions regarding the gastroenteritis surveillance program, please call Patricia Rowley at (702) 383-1378. Patients with a suspected foodborne illness should be referred to the Clark County Health District, Office of Epidemiology to report the illness. The Office of Epidemiology can be reached Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm. After hours and weekends, call (702) 385-1291.