



Population Health Webinar notes

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Farah Ahmed, MPH, PhD | Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics

Slide 3:

KDHE is continuing to monitor for influenza like illness in outpatients using sentinel clinics in all regions of the state, we are also monitoring emergency department visits, and hospitalization due to influenza. This data is published weekly on the KDHE website at the following URL. Kansas is now at widespread influenza activity. Historically influenza has peaked in January – February in Kansas. The predominant strain that is circulating is H1N1, eight deaths with influenza as the direct cause of death have been reported so far this season.

KDHE encourages everyone to make sure they are vaccinated to prevent influenza.

Slide 4:

KDHE, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are investigating an increase multi-drug resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* in the Kansas City metro area.

In Kansas we have had more than 30 cases reported. Bacterial isolates from KS cases, MO cases and environmental samples have shown that these cases are highly related that could indicate a common source.

Investigation is ongoing to determine the source of this increase and to ensure the implementation of prevention and control measures.

Slide 5:

KDHE worked with Barton County Health Department and the Kansas Department of Agriculture to investigate an outbreak of gastrointestinal illnesses among employees at a worksite. There were 42 persons ill with GI symptoms.

We were able to collect and test both food samples and clinical specimens. Two pathogens were identified, *Clostridium perfringens* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Both of these pathogens produce a toxin which causes persons to become ill within a short period of time. The incubation period was only 2 to 4 hours after consuming the contaminated food. Upon further interview of the individual that prepared the meal it was determined that the meat that was served was not held at the appropriate temperatures prior to serving the meal. Education was provided on proper food handling.

Slide 6:

KDHE worked with Cherokee County and Crawford County Health Departments to investigate an outbreak of Shigellosis that was occurring in Cherokee County. There were 55 cases associated with this outbreak and there were three schools that were affected. This outbreak lasted for over a month. Most persons who are infected with *Shigella* develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps starting a day or two after they are exposed to the bacteria. *Shigella* is very contagious which contributed to the spread of this disease in the community.

Slide 7:

KDHE has been receiving an increased number of reports of gastrointestinal illnesses. This is very common for this time of year when norovirus is circulating. To report a food complaint, go to the Food Safety Kansas website.

FYI on vacant Foodborne Epidemiologist Position. Lindsey Webb has left KDHE for another position. If you were contacting Lindsey directly about any foodborne or other outbreaks, please email the epi hotline.

Slide 9:

- Jeanne Jones selected as the onboarding coordinator for Syndromic Surveillance. She takes over the position from Sophia Crossen.
- Learning Collaborative remains underway with Wichita State.
- Geary County Health Department selected for a pilot project to work on Syndromic Surveillance with adjacent counties.
- Counties that received KDHE grants on Opioids, needing mortality or hospital statistics should email: KDHE.HealthStatistics@ks.gov.

Slide 11:

The KDHE IRB will be convening this quarter on Friday March 29th at 10:00am in Topeka.

If you have an upcoming project that qualifies as “human subjects research” and you use data that you have requested from KDHE, or KDHE is a partner, or if we are funding all or part of the project, please submit your project to the KDHE IRB.

If you have any questions about whether your project qualifies as “human subjects research,” or if you need the form requesting IRB review, please email me at farah.ahmed@ks.gov .

Philip Harris, MA, CHES® | Bureau of Health Promotion

Slide 41:

Safe Kids Kansas wanted to remind you that TV Safety Day is coming up on February 2, the Saturday before the Super Bowl. It's a good reminder to secure TVs and other furniture to prevent tip-over injuries. Attached will be an infographic and tip sheet, feel free to download and share them.

Questions reach out to your local Safe Kids coalition or contact Cherie Sage.

Slide 42:

The Community Health Promotion Summit is coming up later this week in Manhattan. We hope to see you there.

Slide 43:

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program will be providing vendor training at each of the 2019 Regional Farmers Market Workshops in February. Registration and Information about the trainings is available through the on the slides, if you have additional questions please reach out to Emily Carpenter.

Slide 44:

The purpose of the Alliance is to reduce chronic disease burden by implementing collaborative interventions in the areas of advocacy, prevention, disease management, and quality of care. Consider attending and joining. IF you are already a member we look forward to seeing you there.

Slide 45

Cancer Connections is doing another round of classes for cancer survivors and thrivers, a flyer will be attached. They have already had twice as many people participate in the first session this year then they did last year. Help us continue to grow this wonderful opportunity. A flyer will be shared with the slides please download, print, post and share with your networks.

If you have questions, contact Judy Johnston.

Please note that the next Webinar will be February 26, 2019 at 10am.