

Communicable Disease (CD) Quarterly Report

2013 Quarter 2

San Joaquin County Public Health Services

- Provider CD Reporting: 209-468-3822 (phone) 209-468-8222 (fax)
 - Karen Furst, MD, MPH, Health Officer
 - Karen Pfister, MS, Supervising Epidemiologist

Cryptococcus gattii

There are two types of cryptococcal fungi that can cause disease in humans. *Cryptococcus neoformans* is the more common and well known cause of morbidity and mortality among HIV-infected and immunocompromised individuals. *Cryptococcus gattii* is rare but can cause illness in healthy or immunocompromised individuals. *C. gattii* is usually found in the environment; it is generally associated with soil and decaying organic debris. *C. gattii* has typically been found in tropical and sub-tropical regions, however, since 1999 *C. gattii* has been found in the U.S. Pacific Northwest, Vancouver Island and mainland Canada. By 2010, cases had been reported in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California.

Infection in humans results from the inhalation of microscopic, airborne fungal spores from the environment. It is not known to spread from person to person. The incubation period is thought to be 2 to 13 months, although it may be longer. Infection causes a pneumonia-like illness. Symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, fever and headache. *C. gattii* can also infect the central nervous system and cause meningoenzephalitis which can manifest as altered mental status or cause long-term neurological damage. Fungal growths, known as cryptococcomas, may occur in the lungs, skin, brain or other organs.

Diagnosis can be made by microscopic examination and/or culture of tissue, blood, CSF, or sputum. Currently, there is no test available in local or commercial labs to identify *C. gattii*, however, the California Department of Public Health is collaborating with CDC to look for suspect cases in California. If a patient is suspected to have *C. gattii*, please see if an isolate can be saved, and contact Public Health Services Communicable Diseases program at 209-468-3822 immediately for guidance on testing, treatment, and reporting.

Table 1: Selected Communicable Diseases Reported to San Joaquin County Public Health Services, 2012 and 2013

	2012		2013	
	2nd Qtr	YTD	2nd Qtr	YTD
Coccidioidomycosis	24	60	15	31
Meningococcal Infections	1	2	1	1
Viral Meningitis	4	8	2	6
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C (Chronic)	262	500	170	341

Table 2: Selected Gastrointestinal Diseases Reported to San Joaquin County Public Health Services, 2012 and 2013

	2012		2013	
	2nd Qtr	YTD	2nd Qtr	YTD
Amebiasis	2	4	1	2
Campylobacteriosis	44	64	52	75
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin Producing (STEC)	4	5	5	5
Giardiasis	8	11	12	21
Salmonellosis	21	33	18	37
Shigellosis	1	1	2	3
Yersiniosis	2	2	3	6

Table 3: Selected Vaccine Preventable Diseases Reported to San Joaquin County Public Health Services, 2012 and 2013

	2012		2013	
	2nd Qtr	YTD	2nd Qtr	YTD
Hepatitis A	2	3	0	0
Hepatitis B (acute)	1	2	1	2
Hepatitis B (Chronic)	50	85	31	50
Pertussis	2	3	10	15

Table 4: Selected Outbreaks Reported to San Joaquin County Public Health Services, 2012 and 2013

	2012		2013	
	2nd Qtr	YTD	2nd Qtr	YTD
Gastrointestinal	3	15	2	18
Respiratory	1	4	0	1

Note: Data reflects cases that have been entered into the CalREDIE reporting system as of 6/26/14.