

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

NEWSLETTER

JOPLIN/JASPER COUNTY

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April-June 2015

Food Borne Illnesses in Summer

Salmonella is an illness caused by bacteria that makes people sick. Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps between 12 and 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most individuals recover without treatment. In some cases, diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized. However, people with diarrhea due to a *Salmonella* infection usually recover completely, although it may be several months before their bowel habits are entirely normal. *Salmonella* infections are more common in the summer than winter.

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Source: CDC

Tick-borne Illnesses

In the United States, ticks are responsible for more human disease than any other insect. Ticks are very effective transmitters of disease because most ticks take blood from a large variety of small and large mammals, reptiles and even birds. Ticks become infected with a disease-causing agent by feeding on infected mammals or birds. For example, a tick can pick up Lyme disease from a field mouse, and later in its life transmit bacteria to a deer, dog or human. At least six different human tick-borne diseases have been reported in Missouri: Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, tularemia, Q-fever, Lyme or a lyme-like disease and the southern tick-associated rash illness. Tick-borne diseases are a type of emerging disease, many of them first recognized in the last 30 years. Human case numbers per year for tick-borne diseases are generally on the rise. Fortunately, not all ticks are infected, so a tick bite does not necessarily mean you will get a disease.

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Tick Borne Illnesses Continued

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More importantly, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) wants people to know that when they take precautions, they can reduce their chance of being bitten.

Understanding a little about tick behavior can give some clues on how to avoid being bitten. For example, one tried-and-true prevention measure is to walk in the center of trails to avoid overhanging brush and tall grass. Ticks do not jump, fall or fly and are generally found within three feet of the ground.

Using an insect repellent that contains DEET on your skin protects you because it interferes with ticks' ability to locate you. Another repellent called permethrin, which is used on clothing, actually kills ticks (as well as mosquitoes and chiggers). Once on a host, the tick seeks a place to attach and take a blood meal. Ticks attach on people in many places, but are most frequently found around the head, neck, underarms, and groin. Light-colored clothing helps you spot ticks more easily and tucking or even taping your pant legs into your socks helps slow them down in their quest for your skin. Prompt, careful inspection and removal of ticks is an important method of preventing disease. If you find an attached tick, it should be removed promptly. The longer it is attached the greater the risk of infection. There are many "old wives tales" about how to remove a tick. However, to reduce the chance of disease transmission correctly using tweezers or commercial tick removal tools is preferred. After removing the tick, disinfect the skin with soap and water, or other available disinfectants.

Source: [DHSS](#)



Source: DHSS

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) in Jasper County, 2015

Table 1, Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Jasper County
January– April 2015

		January	February	March	April
Jasper County	Chlamydia	30	53	49	42
	Gonorrhea	0	4	6	1
	Syphilis	0	1	1	0
	Total	30	58	56	43

According to the data in Table 1, there were a total of 187 STD cases reported in the first four months of 2015. There were more cases reported in February than any other month for Jasper County. Chlamydia had the most cases reported, while syphilis had the least number of cases reported.

Source: DHSS

**Table 2, Communicable Diseases Reported in Joplin/Jasper County:
2014 and 2015 (January through June)**

CUMMULATIVE CASES				
	JOPLIN		JASPER	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	5	10	9	14
COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS	0	1	0	0
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	3	4	2	4
E COLI SHIGA TOXIN POSITIVE	1	0	2	5
E. COLI O157 H7	0	0	1	3
EHRlichia CHAFFEENSIS	0	3	0	5
GIARDIASIS	0	0	1	2
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE	0	1	0	2
HEMOLYTIC UREMIC SYNDROME	0	0	0	2
HEPATITIS B (PREGNANCY)	0	0	1	1
HEPATITIS B (ACUTE)	2	1	2	1
HEPATITIS B (CHRONIC)	4	5	1	3
HEPATITIS C (CHRONIC)	44	36	27	40
LEGIONELLOSIS	0	0	1	0
LYME	0	0	0	0
MYCOBACTERIUM OTHER THAN TB (MOTT)	8	5	7	4
PERTUSSIS	0	2	0	0
RABIES POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS	2	2	2	1
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER	1	0	0	5
SALMONELLOSIS	1	9	0	5
SHIGELLOSIS	0	0	0	1
STREP DISEASE (GROUP A INVASIVE)	2	0	1	1
STREP PNEUMONIAE (<5 YRS INVASIVE)	1	0	0	0
TB DISEASE	0	0	1	1
TB INFECTION	15	10	7	17
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	1	2	3	8

Source: DHSS

Key

2015 more than 2014	
2015 less than 2014	

Food Borne Illnesses in Summer Continued

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CDC estimates that approximately 1.2 million illnesses and approximately 450 deaths occur due to non-typhoidal *Salmonella* annually in the United States.

Children are at the highest risk for *Salmonella* infection, and those under the age of 5 have a higher rate of infection than any other age group. Young children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are the most likely to have severe infections. A small number of people with *Salmonella* develop pain in their joints. Antibiotic treatment of the initial *Salmonella* infection does not make a difference in whether or not the person develops arthritis. People with reactive arthritis can also develop irritation of the eyes and painful urination.

Source: [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov)

Cumulative Influenza Data Updates From October 5, 2014 through May 16, 2015

Table 2. Jasper County

Type	Season-TD	% of Total
Influenza A	671	81.1
Influenza B	156	18.9
Untyped	0	0.0
Total	827	100.0

Table 3. Joplin City

Type	Season-TD	% of Total
Influenza A	657	76.9
Influenza B	196	23.0
Untyped	1	0.1
Total	854	100.0

Table 4. Jasper County

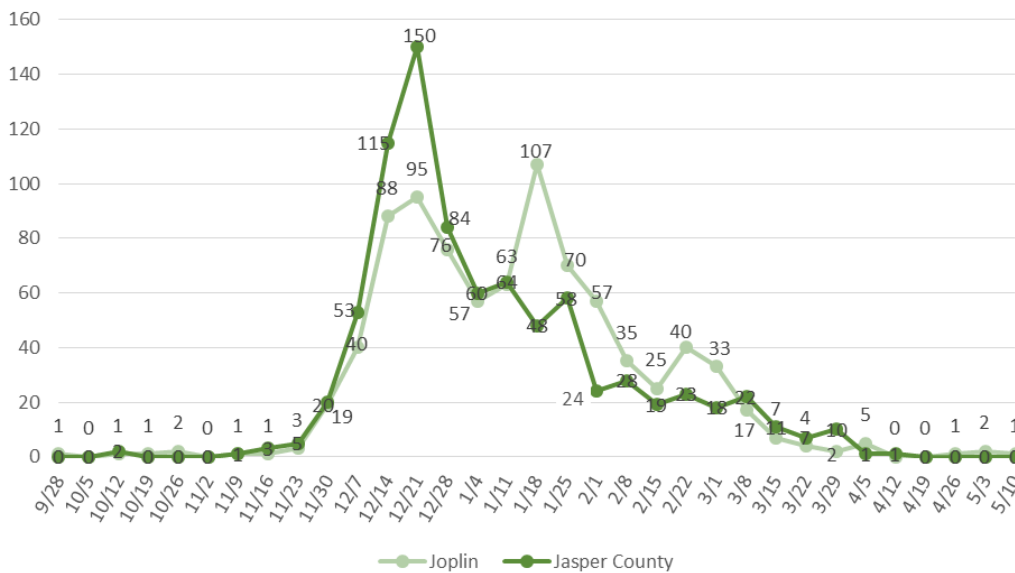
	Season-TD	% of Total
0-1	83	10.0
2-4	96	11.6
5-14	272	32.9
15-24	119	14.4
25-49	127	15.4
50-64	55	6.7
65+	75	9.1
Total	827	100.0

Table 5. Joplin City

	Season-TD	% of Total
0-1	55	6.4
2-4	89	10.4
5-14	241	28.2
15-24	97	11.4
25-49	162	19.0
50-64	89	10.4
65+	121	14.2
Total	854	100.0

Source: Crystal Reports, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

**Table 6, Reported Flu Cases in Joplin/Jasper County By Week:
2014-2015 Influenza Season YTD**



The 2014-2015 flu season ended in mid-May. A total of 1,681 cases were reported in Joplin City (854) and Jasper County (827) for the season. From October to May, the 5-14 age group experienced the most cases in both Joplin City and Jasper County. In addition, Influenza A was the most common type of flu affecting Joplin City and Jasper County. Analysis of cases reported was based on age, type of flu and jurisdiction.

Source: Joplin Health Department

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