



BUG BITES

A monthly publication from the Infectious Disease (ID) department

MONTHLY INFECTIOUS DISEASE NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE - STI, INFLUENZA, RAPID MRSA TEST

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI)

U.S. rates of gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis have steeply increased for the fourth consecutive year, according to preliminary data from the CDC.

Nearly 2.3 million cases of STI's were diagnosed in 2017, an increase of 200,000 over the prior year.

Gonorrhea has increased 67% from 333,000 to 556,000 from 2013 to 2017. The number nearly doubled among men. Cases of primary and secondary syphilis increased 76% from 17,000 to 30,000 during these 4 years. Cases of chlamydia have hit 1.7 million, nearly half were among young females aged 15 to 24.

INFLUENZA VACCINATION

All persons aged ≥ 6 months without contraindication should be vaccinated for influenza annually. Advisory committee for immunization practices (ACIP) recommends that the live attenuated intranasal vaccine be used again in eligible patients. However, American Academy of Pediatrics still favors injectable as the first line vaccine. See below for more info.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/rr6703a1.htm?s_cid=rr6703a1_w

Question of the Month

What percentage of U.S. teens are being fully vaccinated for HPV?

In 2017, roughly half (49%) of adolescents were up to date on the HPV vaccine series and 66% of adolescents ages 13-17 years old received only the first dose of 3 in the series.

Did you know?

Soon we will have the ability to rapidly test for *Staph aureus* when a patient has positive GPC (gram positive cocci) in blood cultures. With this test, we will be able to identify MSSA or MRSA soon after blood culture becomes positive. This will allow for earlier diagnosis and avoid unnecessary Vancomycin use! We are very excited about this development. See picture of ID, Pharmacy and Micro using the Cepheid machine above.

* Bug bites will be temporarily on hold and will resume in January 2019. Happy holidays! *