

GGNHSB PHPU NEWSLETTER

www.show.scot.nhs.uk/ggnhsb (TEL: 0141 201 4917/FAX:0141 201 4950)



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Cryptosporidiosis outbreak

The final report of the outbreak control team (OCT) which investigated the outbreak of Cryptosporidiosis, Spring 2000, in the area supplied with Loch Katrine water, via the Milngavie Treatment Works, has been published by Greater Glasgow NHS Board (GGNHSB).

The report details the background situation, the investigations into the cause of the outbreak, including descriptive epidemiology and the results of a case/control study, and makes a series of recommendations. There was a total of 90 confirmed outbreak cases, including one death. The conclusion of the OCT was that the outbreak was **strongly associated** with drinking water from the Loch Katrine supply and **linked** to Cryptosporidium contamination from livestock raised on the catchment area (the area from which the reservoir is fed). The report makes a series of recommendations relating to; the control of water-supply catchment areas where livestock is present, the advice given to consumers receiving unfiltered water supplies, the laboratory-reporting procedure (13 cases reported to Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health were not reported to the Health Board) and what further research is required. The report will be of interest to CPHMs, microbiologists, environmental health officers and water authorities and is available from Greater Glasgow NHS Board, Public Health Protection Unit (0141 201 4917). It can also be found on the GGNHSB website (see under Reports and Publications on www.show.scot.nhs.uk/ggnhsb).

Although West of Scotland Water declined to endorse the report, it implemented all the relevant recommendations and recently announced that sheep-farming on the banks of Loch Katrine would cease, citing "economic as well as public health reasons".

Decontamination of surgical instruments report

The report (HDL(2001)10) of the Scottish Executive Health Department Working Group on the decontamination of surgical instruments and medical devices in health-care premises was published in Feb 2001. The recommendations of this report and risk-management of healthcare-associated infection will be more extensively covered in February's edition of the newsletter.

www.show.scot.nhs.uk/shed/ (click on publications).

Hogmanay event 2001

This year, as in previous years, Emergency Planning has led arrangements for the provision of medical, ambulance and first-aid services at the annual event. Whilst not on the same scale as Edinburgh's, our event, nevertheless, is expected to attract a city-centre crowd approaching 100,000. Meeting the potential demands of the event, whilst ensuring that city A&E departments and ambulance services can continue to meet normal requirements, needs substantial planning and considerable resources dedicated to the event. There will be 9 doctors and 9 nurses, supported by 6 ambulance and 100 first-aiders, on duty at various locations in the city-centre.

Casualties not suffering from life-threatening injuries will be treated at first-aid posts before being taken, if required, to a casualty-clearance facility on Ingram Street. This year, the facility will also include a medical-observation area where those who have "overindulged" can be monitored before being sent home, transferred to A&E or "offered" overnight accommodation by Strathclyde Police.

Streets within the city centre, principally around George Square, the Merchant City and Dunlop Street Car Park, will be progressively closed from lunchtime on the 31st December. However, emergency access arrangements will be maintained at all times. Any queries regarding access for doctors/nurses etc. needing to make house calls should be made to "A" Division of Strathclyde Police.

Glasgow's event is typically good-humoured but despite every effort to make it as safe as possible, around 200 people are generally seen by the medical, ambulance and first-aid services. The good news is that generally only around 10 require further treatment in hospital.

If you would like to know more, contact Alan Dorn on 0141 201 4554 or, Tracy Curtis on 0141 201 4553.

Hep B vaccine - school mop-up

Please note that *school nurses* are responsible for vaccinating pupils who missed Hep B vaccine at school. This is a pilot programme and it is important that the same 3-dose vaccine (HB Vax Pro) is used for all pupils and that records are maintained by school-health staff. Those pupils who present to GPs and practice nurses for vaccination should be directed to the school-health services.

The Public Health Protection Unit wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Increase in syphilis cases

Dr Jim McMenamin (CPHM) has written (03/12/01) to all GPs and hospital clinicians alerting them to the increase in syphilis cases reported to the GGNHS Board in recent months. The cases have been found in heterosexuals (both sexes) and homosexual men and occur against a backdrop of increased reports in Brighton, Manchester and London over the last two years. Attached to the letter is a summary of signs/symptoms of infection since few clinicians will have seen an actual case.

Where syphilis is a differential diagnosis, or there is laboratory confirmation of infection, then GPs are advised to contact one of the genito-urinary medicine consultants at the Sandyford Initiative Greater Glasgow (211 8601). Although a serious infection, syphilis is curable if treated early with antibiotics. Please note that the sexual health clinic at the Sandyford Initiative provides a confidential walk-in service Mon-Fri from 8.30 - 10.00 am.

Flu vaccine uptake

A reminder that the Chief Medical Officer has set an uptake-target of 65% for the 65yrs+ age group. The overall uptake-rate for GGNHS Board during the first month of vaccination (at end October 2001) was 48.7% (a similar figure for the same time-point in 2000). The vaccination rates across the LHCCs vary between 41.7% and 60.4%.

In recognition of the higher target set for this year, GGNHSB is working with the Primary Care Trust (Terry Findlay (Terry.Findlay@gartnavel.gla.ac.uk)) to offer assistance, if required, to those practices anticipating, or experiencing, difficulty achieving the 65% target and those which have not yet provided information (59 practices) to the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health in their monthly returns (Ann Smith Ann.Smith@scieh.csa.scot.nhs.uk).

In the event of any local difficulty in obtaining flu vaccine there remains plentiful contingency stock vaccine in the Leverdale pharmacy which is accessible to community pharmacists.

Zanamivir (neuraminidase inhibitor) remains on the approved Formulary of Drugs for Greater Glasgow. This reflects the NICE guidance from late 2000. Note that restrictions on use include prescribing *only* when the rate of flu-like illness > 50 per 100,000 (current rates are well below this threshold as we go to press).

MMR update

The news last week that the General Medical Council was to take no action against the GP who administered single measles, mumps and rubella vaccines, may lead some to misinterpret the outcome. This judgement does not mean that there has been a change of government policy regarding the MMR triple vaccine.

The Scottish Executive has reiterated that all the evidence suggests that MMR vaccine is safe. Other organisations who support this view are the Department of Health, Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Committee on Safety of Medicine (CSM), BMA, Medical Research Council

(MRC) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

Hot turkey !

We continue to get frequent reports of salmonella and campylobacter infection, along with other food-poisoning organisms. Confirmed cases (with the exception of Campylobacter infections) are investigated by food-safety officers from local environmental health departments. Most infections are sporadic and many are attributed to undercooked meat or poultry prepared at home.

Please follow these basic steps to reduce the risk of food poisoning at home:

- Always keep raw and cooked meats and poultry separately
- Clean ALL surfaces and utensils thoroughly following food preparation
- Store raw meat and poultry in a covered container at the bottom of the fridge
- Keep the fridge temperature between 0°- 4° C
- Thoroughly defrost frozen meat and poultry before cooking (check defrosting instructions on the wrapper)
- Cook meat and poultry thoroughly until juices run clear
- NEVER eat raw eggs
- Wash salads, fruit and vegetables in clean, running water
- Wash hands BEFORE and AFTER food preparation

Watch the birdie !

With Christmas round the corner
Let's stop and pause for thought
About the possible dangers
Where you may well get caught



The choice of goose or turkey
Is really up to you
But please defrost it thoroughly
And cook it through and through



Place it in the oven
Seasoning's up to you
Remember, remove the giblets
To let the heat go through



Cooking time is variable
Weight dictates how long
There's time to join the party
To recite or sing a song



The temperature is important
Make sure you get it right
If you cook the stuffing separate
You'll have a tasty, less fatty bite



(by The Basting Bard)



If you have any comments about any aspect of this newsletter (except the poetry) please contact Dr Marie Laurie, Public Health (0141 201 4933)

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SIDEBAR ARTICLES

This sidebar article was created with a text box. You can use a sidebar article for any information you want to keep separate from other articles or information that highlights an article next to it. These could include a list of contributors, addresses or contact information, a smaller self-contained story, a preview of the next issue, or a calendar of schedule. The example below shows a Calendar of Events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE

TIME

Type a description of your event here.

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE

TIME

Type a description of your event here.

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE

TIME

Type a description of your event here.

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE

TIME

Type a description of your event here.

Instructions for Using This Template

Type your sub-heading here

Your By-line

Your Company Name

To keep these instructions, choose Print from the File menu. Press Enter to print the template. Replace the sample text with your own text to create your newsletter.

Using Styles in This Template

To change the Style of any paragraph, select the text by positioning your cursor anywhere in the paragraph. Select a Style from the drop-down Style list at the top-left of your screen. Press Enter to accept your choice.



See Page 4 to learn how to edit or replace this picture.

The styles available in this template allow you to change the look of your headlines and other text. The following is a list of some common styles and their uses.

Body Text - Use this style for the regular text of an article.

Byline - Use this style for the name of the author of an article.

Byline Company - Use this style to type the author's company.

SIDEBAR HEAD - Use this style to type a second-level heading in a sidebar article.

SIDEBAR SUBHEAD - Use this style to type a third-level heading in a sidebar article.

Sidebar Text - Use this style to type the text in a sidebar article.

MORE WAYS TO CUSTOMIZE THIS TEMPLATE

FOOTERS

To change the text at the very bottom of each page of your newsletter, click Headers and Footers on the View menu. Use the Header and Footer toolbar to open the footer, and replace the sample text with your own text.

INSERT SYMBOL

It is a good idea to place a small symbol at the end of each article to let the reader know that the article is finished and will not continue onto another page. Position your cursor at the end of the article, click Symbol on the Insert menu, choose the symbol you want, and then click Insert.

BORDERS

You can use page borders and text box borders to change the appearance of your newsletter. Borders on text boxes help keep different articles separate, and can set off sidebar articles from the rest of the page. To change a text box border, select it, double click its edge and choose the Colors and Lines tab in the Format Auto Shape dialog box.

Return Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Inserting and Editing Pictures

Type your sub-heading here

You can replace the pictures in this template with your company's art. Select the picture you want to replace, point to Picture in the Insert menu, and click From File. Choose a new picture and then click Insert. Select the Link to File box if you don't want to embed the art in the newsletter. This is a good idea if you need to minimize your file size; embedding a picture adds significantly to the size of the file.

To edit a picture, click on it to activate the Picture toolbar. You can use this toolbar to adjust brightness and contrast,

Choose a new picture, and click the Link to File box if you don't want to save the art with the newsletter.

change line properties and crop the image. For more detailed editing, double-click on the graphic to activate the drawing layer. ■

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