



Human Services Building  
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# Durham County Communicable Disease Update for Healthcare Providers

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## Announcements

- Communicable Disease (CD) Reporting Forms are now located on our website, under Health Resources and Data. <http://dconnc.gov/index.aspx?page=874>
- State CD reporting statute: [10A NCAC 41A .0101](#)

## Important Numbers

Main Number	(919) 560-7600
CD Program Nurse	(919) 560-7896
FAX:	(919) 560-7716
Immunization Clinic	(919) 560-7608
Tuberculosis Clinic	(919) 560-7633
Adult Health Clinic	(919) 560-7658

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### Tickborne Infections

- Tick-Borne rickettsial diseases (TBRD) include Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and other diseases caused by *Rickettsia*, *Ehrlichia*, *Anaplasma* sp.
- The number of cases of spotted fever rickettsial diseases have increased in NC since 2009.
- RMSF symptoms present 2-14 days after an infected tick bite, compared to symptoms of *Ehrlichia* which develop 1-2 weeks after a bite.
- Typical symptoms of RMSF or ehrlichiosis include fever, headache, abdominal pain, vomiting, and myalgias.
- Most persons with RMSF (90%) develop a macular rash 2-5 days after onset of fever. Skin rash is not a common feature of ehrlichiosis, and should not be used to rule in or rule out an infection.
- Paired acute and convalescent sera for IgG immunofluorescence assay are needed to confirm the diagnosis of RMSF or ehrlichiosis for reporting purposes.
- However, the diagnosis of RMSF or ehrlichiosis should be made based on clinical signs and symptoms.
- Doxycycline treatment in adults and children should be initiated immediately for suspected TBRD and not be withheld on the basis of an initial negative laboratory result.
- All suspected cases of Lyme's disease should be accompanied by two-tier serologic testing with an IgM/IgG EIA followed by Western Blot for confirmation.



### Rabies

- Rabies in humans is uncommon and can be eliminated through adequate animal vaccinations, educating those at risk, and enhancing access of persons bitten to appropriate medical care.
- An exposure to rabies is any penetration of the skin by the teeth of a potentially rabid animal or contamination of scratches, abrasions, open wounds or mucous membranes with saliva or other potentially infectious material (such as brain or nervous tissue) from a potentially rabid animal.
- If a bite occurs, ask the following:
  - When and where did the exposure occur?
  - What was the source animal species? cat, dog, wild animal?
  - Can the exposed person positively identify the source animal?
  - Is the source animal available for capture and assessment? If so, contact Animal Control.
  - What were the circumstances of the exposure: provoked, or unprovoked? Unusual behavior, sick animal?
- Was there exposure to rabies virus as defined above? If so, the exposed person should seek guidance from a healthcare provider to determine need for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Example: persons who report a bat in the room where they were sleeping would likely need PEP.
- For information in assessing the risk of exposure, please contact the health department at (919) 560-7608.