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# Durham County Communicable Disease Update for Healthcare Providers

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## Announcements

- The Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) is celebrating 100 years of service in 2013.
- Please visit the new Public Health website at [www.dconc.gov/publichealth](http://www.dconc.gov/publichealth).
- Staff e-mail addresses have changed! Addresses previously using the @durhamcountync.gov format have changed to dconc.gov.
- Communicable Disease (CD) Reporting Forms are now located on our website, under Health Resources and Data. <http://dconc.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) are clinically similar and include Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever as well as diseases caused by other *Rickettsia*, *Ehrlichia* and *Anaplasma* species.
  - Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiosis (SFGR) comprised 82% of all TBRD in 2012 with Lyme's disease being less common; only 33 confirmed and 94 probable cases in 2012.
  - RMSF symptoms usually have sudden onset 2-14 days after an infected tick bite, compared to symptoms of *Ehrlichia* which develop 1-2 weeks after a bite.
- 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 should be initiated immediately for suspected RMSF or ehrlichiosis 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 and reporting.

### Foodborne Diseases (Salmonella)

- Salmonella is the most common reportable foodborne infection. There were 64 confirmed salmonella infections reported in Durham County in 2012.
- Eight known pathogens account for the vast majority of illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths (Norovirus, Salmonella, Clostridium Perfringens, Campylobacter, Staphylococcus)
- Salmonellosis is one of the most common bacterial foodborne diseases of humans in NC and elsewhere.
- *Salmonella* are usually transmitted to humans by eating foods contaminated with animal feces. Contaminated foods usually look and smell normal.
- *Salmonella* infections usually resolve in 5-7 days and often do not require treatment other than oral fluids. Persons with severe diarrhea may require rehydration with intravenous fluids.
- Stool cultures are indicated if

the patient is immunocompromised, febrile, has bloody diarrhea, has severe abdominal pain, or if the illness is clinically severe or persistent.

- All forms of foodborne disease are reportable in NC, even if the cause is not specifically documented.

For more information on CD reporting please call our CD Program staff at (919) 560-7896

