

# Durham County Communicable Disease Update For Healthcare Providers

Durham County Health Department, Durham, NC



## Announcements

- Check out our new Durham County Human Services building, now open at 414 East Main Street in Durham.
- With warmer weather, there is an increase in tickborne and food-borne infections in the area. This issue includes key information from the NC Division of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- For information regarding NC communicable disease reporting requirements and forms, please go to our website at [www.durhamcountync.gov/departments/phth/CDC\\_New\\_Information\\_1.html](http://www.durhamcountync.gov/departments/phth/CDC_New_Information_1.html)

## Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

- The 3 major tick-borne illnesses in NC are Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF), Ehrlichiosis, and Lyme's disease.
- NC is one of 5 states that account for > 60% of RMSF cases nationwide.
- In 2010, the number of reported RMSF cases were over 275 in NC and only 9 in Durham County.
- Symptoms of RMSF begin 2-14 days after a tick bite, usually with a sudden onset of fever and headache.
- Children with RMSF may have nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite.
- Most patients develop a



pink, non-pruritic, macular rash on wrists, forearms, and ankles that spreads to the trunk, and sometimes the palms and soles.

- However, 10% with RMSF never develop a rash.
- The gold standard serologic test is the indirect immunofluorescence assay (IFA) with *Rickettsia rickettsia* antigens on two paired sera (1st week of illness, and 2-4 wks later).

- Empiric therapy with doxycycline for adults and children reduces disease severity and fatalities, and should not be delayed.
- Confirmed or probable cases of RMSF are reportable.
- Confirmed = meets clinical criteria (fever plus one or more of the following: rash, headache, myalgia, anemia, thrombocytopenia, or any LFT evaluation) that is lab confirmed (i.e. IFA with 4-fold increase; PCR or isolation of *R. rickettsia* in cell culture from a clinical specimen).
- For more info, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/rmsf>

## Important Numbers

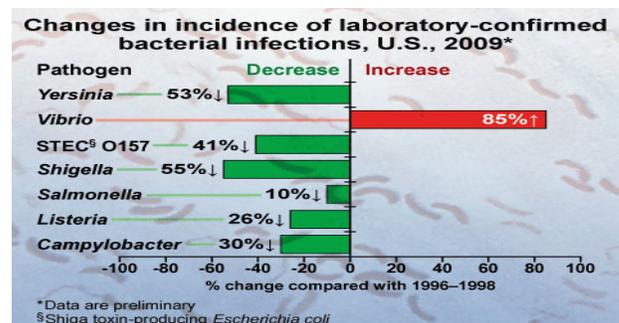
Main Number	560-7600
Communicable Disease Control	560-7600
Immunization Clinic	560-7608
Tuberculosis Clinic	560- 7633

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## Foodborne Diseases

- Each year, 1 in 6 Americans get sick from and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases.
- In the US, rates of *Vibrio* have increased in past decade. However, *Salmonella* is most frequently reported.
- In 2010, Durham County had 51 cases of salmonellosis, due in part to an outbreak associated with an egg-related food item.



- 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 foodborne diseases are reportable, even if the cause is not specifically documented.