



EPI MONITOR

Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter | AUGUST 2024



FDOH Duval Epidemiology Program

921 N. Davis Street
Bldg. A., Suite 251, MC - 28
Jacksonville, FL 32209
☎ 904-253-1850

Epi Director:
Chowdhury Bari, MBBS,
MPH, CIC

Editors:
Oluwadara Oyewole, MPH
Epidemiologist

Julissa Villegas Nunez, MPH
Epidemiologist

Contributors:
The Epidemiology Team

Need to report a Communicable Disease?

HIV/AIDS:
☎ 904-253-2954
☎ 904-253-2955
☎ 904-253-2977

STD:
☎ 904-253-1260
Fax: 904-253-1260

TB Control
☎ 904-253-1070
Fax: 904-253-1943

All others – EPI
☎ 904-253-1850
Fax: 904-253-1851

**Visit our website for
more information:**

Duval.FloridaHealth.gov

[Infectious Disease Service -
Epidemiology](#)

Report Summary

This month's report highlights various surveillance and investigation activities in Duval County. The summarized data includes counts of all reportable diseases and conditions for July 2024, along with comparative data from 2021 to 2024.

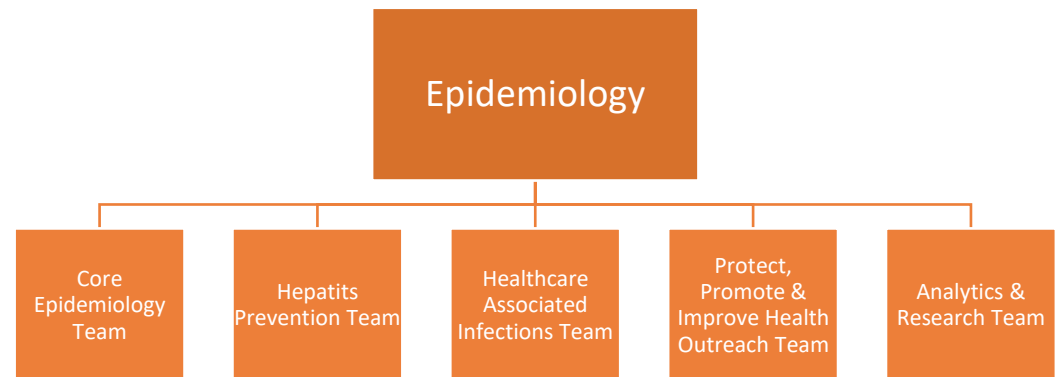
Updates:

As of June 2024, Duval County has reported 4 cases of pertussis, with nearby Nassau County also reporting 4 cases. Duval County continues to conduct enhanced surveillance. Statewide, there has been an overall increase in pertussis cases, surpassing the 3-year average.

Epi Program Highlights: About Us

The Epidemiology Program in Duval County is dedicated to protecting, promoting, and improving the health of residents and visitors through comprehensive disease surveillance, investigation and control, epidemiologic and outbreak responses, education, and outreach. The team identifies individuals at increased health risk, assesses causality, and recommends preventive measures to reduce the burden of disease and injury.

The FDOH Duval Epidemiology Program comprises the following subdepartments:



Monthly Health Spotlight: Respiratory Viruses

Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot

Core prevention strategies

- Immunizations**: Illustration of a person receiving a vaccine.
- Hygiene**: Illustration of a person washing hands.
- Steps for Cleaner Air**: Illustration of a window with a fan and a plant.
- Treatment**: Illustration of a person on the phone with a pill bottle.
- Stay Home and Prevent Spread***: Illustration of a person in bed.

Additional prevention strategies

- Masks**: Illustration of a person wearing a mask.
- Distancing**: Illustration of two people with a distance marker.
- Tests**: Illustration of a person taking a test.

Layering prevention strategies can be especially helpful when:

- ✓ Respiratory viruses are causing a lot of illness in your community
- ✓ You or those around you have risk factors for severe illness
- ✓ You or those around you were recently exposed, are sick, or are recovering

***Stay home and away from others until, for 24 hours BOTH:**

- Your symptoms are getting better
- You are fever-free (without meds)

Then take added precaution for the next 5 days

Source: [Respiratory Virus Guidance | CDC](#)

Respiratory viruses are viruses that cause illnesses in the respiratory system. These illnesses share similar symptoms, risk factors, and prevention strategies. Preventing the spread of respiratory viruses is important and taking a few simple steps can help to stop the spread especially for those who are at higher risk for severe illness.

Health Alerts



July 23, 2024 – CDC HAN: Disruptions in Availability of Becton Dickinson (BD) BACTEC™ Blood Culture Bottles

Summary: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to inform healthcare providers, laboratory professionals, healthcare facility administrators, and state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments of a critical [shortage](#) of Becton Dickinson (BD) BACTEC™ blood culture media bottles. This shortage has the potential to disrupt patient care by leading to delays in diagnosis, misdiagnosis, or other challenges in the clinical management of patients with certain infectious diseases. Healthcare providers, laboratory professionals, healthcare facility administrators, and state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments affected by this shortage should immediately begin to assess their situations and develop plans and options to mitigate the potential impact of the shortage on patient care.



July 22, 2024 – DOH Duval Blue-Green Algae Alert for Part of the St. Johns River

Summary: Duval County, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Duval County (DOH-Duval) has issued a health alert for the presence of harmful blue-green algae toxins in the St. Johns River. The alert is in response to a water sample taken on July 22, 2024. The public should exercise caution in and around the St. Johns River near Mandarin Point.



June 16, 2024 - DOH Duval Rabies Alert for Northside Area

Summary: Florida Department of Health in Duval County (DOH-Duval) issued a rabies alert for the Northside area of Duval County. The alert is in effect through August 12, 2024. The rabies alert area is bordered on the north by Scarborough Road, on the south by New Berlin Road, on the east by the Yellowbluff Road, and west by Burton Island Way.

Reportable Disease Table

Disease Category	DUVAL		YTD TOTALS		DUVAL COUNTY ANNUAL TOTALS		
	July 2024	July 2023	Duval 2024	Florida 2024	2023	2022	2021
A. Vaccine Preventable Disease							
Mumps	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Varicella	0	0	3	488	16	22	15
Pertussis	0	0	4	261	1	2	0
B. CNS and Bacteremia							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	1	10	2	2	0
H. Influenzae Invasive Disease	1	2	11	270	26	19	17
Listeriosis	0	0	1	28	2	5	0
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic	0	1	7	77	5	14	11
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	0	22	4	4	3
S. Pneumoniae Invasive Disease	5	6	69	739	83	64	64
C. Enteric Infections							
Campylobacteriosis	10	10	65	3094	137	85	121
Cryptosporidiosis	1	1	13	288	17	8	7
Cyclospora	1	3	2	131	7	23	7
Giardiasis, Acute	2	4	20	764	36	32	15
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	0	1	11	0	3	0
Salmonellosis	25	22	124	4103	216	222	225
Salmonella Typhi Infection			0	9	0	0	0
Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia Coli (STEC) Infection	2	3	20	636	21	24	13
Shigellosis	5	7	30	713	41	39	15
D. Viral Hepatitis							
Hepatitis A	0	0	3	63	2	7	12
Hepatitis B, Acute	7	1	43	379	38	24	34
Hepatitis B, Pregnant women	4	2	27	306	7	9	8
Hepatitis C, Acute	11	9	78	944	61	90	146
E. Vectorborne, Zoonoses							
Malaria	0	0	3	33	3	8	6
Rabies, Possible Exposure	12	16	106	4278	168	60	30
F. Other							
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	1	0	4	149	1	13	4
Lead Poisoning	17	10	146	2079	210	188	101
Legionellosis	5	4	18	346	32	23	28
Vibrio (Excluding Cholera and Vibrio vulnificus)	2	0	3	194	5	8	9

This report is based on reportable disease information received by the Florida Department of Health as mandated under Section 381.0031, Florida Statutes, and Rule 64D-3.029, Florida Administrative Code. Depending on report criteria, counts include confirmed and/or probable cases that have occurred in Florida among Florida residents. This report does not include cases of AIDS, HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases, or tuberculosis. Sections with N/A indicate no current data for the disease. See [FLHealthCharts](#) for more information.

For Healthcare Professionals

Whooping cough, also known as Pertussis, is a respiratory infection caused by the *Bordetella pertussis* bacteria. This disease is exclusive to humans and is highly contagious, spreading from one person to another through airborne droplets. Age and underlying medical conditions can increase someone's risk for getting a severe case of whooping cough. The best way to prevent whooping cough is to get vaccinated. CDC recommends whooping cough vaccination for everyone¹.

Source: [About Whooping Cough | Pertussis \(Whooping Cough\) | CDC](#)

Pertussis Surveillance: April 2024

The number of reported pertussis cases in April increased from the previous month and exceeded the average of the past five years. In April 2024, there were 46 reported cases of pertussis across 15 counties, highlighted in black on the map below. The average county rates of pertussis fluctuated across the state from January 2023 to April 2024.

