



# Epi Times

Volume 5, Issue 1

## Florida Department of Health

### Pasco County

Main Office  
10841 Little Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
(727) 861-5260  
[www.pasco.floridahealth.gov](http://www.pasco.floridahealth.gov)

**Administrator:**  
Mike Napier, MS

**Epidemiology Manager:**  
Garik Nicholson, MPH

**Office Hours:**  
Mon-Fri 8am–5pm

To report a disease, disease outbreak or request information call:

**Epidemiology:** (352) 521-1450, Option 2

**Confidential fax:** (352) 521-1435

**TB:** (727) 861-5260, ext. 0253

**Confidential fax:** (727) 861-4844

**Environmental:** (813) 558-5173

**Animal Control**  
(report animal bites):  
(727) 834-3216  
Fax: (813) 929-1218

**STD/HIV:** (727) 619-0260 (W. Pasco) or (352) 834-6150 (E. Pasco)

**HIV (testing):** (727) 619-0260 (W. Pasco) or (352) 834-6146 (E. Pasco)

**After Hours:**  
Pager (727) 257-1177  
Answering Service (727) 815-4088

**Epi Times editor:**  
Jennie Pell, MPH, CPH  
Epidemiologist  
(352) 521-1450, ext. 6145  
[jennie.pell@flhealth.gov](mailto:jennie.pell@flhealth.gov)

## Spring and Baby Poultry are Here!

### Cute but risky?

Live baby poultry can carry Salmonella and still look healthy, but can spread the germs to people. Children can be exposed to Salmonella by holding, cuddling, or kissing the birds and by touching things where the bird lives, such as cages or feed and water bowls. Young children are especially at risk for illness because their immune systems are still developing and because they are more likely than others to put their fingers or other items into their mouths.

### How do people get Salmonella infections from live baby poultry?

Live poultry may have Salmonella germs in their droppings and on their bodies (feathers, feet, and beaks) even when they appear healthy and clean. The germs can also get on cages, coops, hay, plants, and soil in the area where the birds live and roam. Additionally, the germs can be found on the hands, shoes, and clothing of those who handle the birds or work or play where they live and roam. People become infected with Salmonella when they put their hands or other things that have been in contact with feces in or around their mouth. Young children are especially at risk for illness because their immune systems are still developing and because they are more likely than others to put their fingers or other items into their mouths. It is important to wash hands immediately after touching poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam, because the germs on your hands can easily spread to other people or things.

### How do I reduce the risk?

#### DO

- Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live baby poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
- Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- Clean any equipment or materials associated with raising or caring for live poultry outside the house, such as cages or feed or water containers.
- Give live poultry their own space to live, outside of your home.

#### DON'T

- Children younger than 5 years of age, older adults, or people with weak immune systems should not handle or touch chicks, ducklings, or other live poultry.
- Don't snuggle or kiss the birds, touch your mouth, or eat or drink around live baby poultry.
- Don't let live baby poultry inside the house, in bathrooms, or especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored, such as kitchens or outdoor patios.
- Don't eat or drink in the area where the birds live or roam.
- Don't give live baby poultry as gifts to young children.

### What are the signs, symptoms, and types of treatment available for Salmonella infections?

Salmonella can make people sick with diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and abdominal cramps. Sometimes, people can become so sick from a Salmonella infection that they have to go to the hospital. Infants, elderly persons, and those with weakened immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness. When severe infection occurs, Salmonella may spread from the intestines to the bloodstream and then to other body sites and can cause death unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics.

Source: [CDC](#)

## Guidelines for Heartland virus disease testing

Heartland virus (HRTV) is a recently discovered tickborne phlebovirus that causes an Ehrlichiosis-like illness. Cases have been reported in persons in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee; animal data suggests broad distribution in the central and eastern U.S. including in Florida. Preliminary evidence suggests the virus may be transmitted through the bite of a tick, with the lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*) implicated as a vector. This tick is present throughout the southeastern U.S.

Clinical presentation is acute febrile illness with fatigue, anorexia, headache, nausea, or diarrhea with leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, and mild to moderately elevated liver transaminases in the two weeks following tick exposure. Symptoms may appear similar to ehrlichiosis but patients do not respond to doxycycline treatment, and test negative for ehrlichiosis. Co-infection with Ehrlichia is also possible.

To learn more about this virus including virus distribution, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is developing a diagnostic testing for HRTV infection in patients with a clinically compatible illness. However, because the laboratory tests are investigational, patients must meet the study inclusion criteria and provide consent for the testing to be performed. Testing must be requested through the county health department.

**Please contact Florida Department of Health-Pasco County at 352-521-1450 option 2 if you have a patient that meets all of the following inclusion criteria:**

Exposure and all of the following

1. Aged  $\geq 18$  years
2. Fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
3. Leukopenia (white blood cell count  $< 4,500$  cells/ $\mu\text{L}$ )
4. Thrombocytopenia (platelet count  $< 150,000$  cells/mL)
5. Acute illness onset in the last two weeks
6. No underlying conditions that could explain their clinical findings (e.g., cancer)



Exposure: having been in wooded, brushy, or grassy areas (i.e. potential tick habitat) during the 2 weeks prior to onset of illness. A history of a tick bite is not required. Most people who develop a tick-borne disease do not remember being bitten by a tick.

**\*\*\*If a tick-borne illness, including ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF), and other spotted fever rickettsiosis (SFR) is suspected, CDC recommended treatment is doxycycline and should be initiated immediately.\*\*\***

### References:

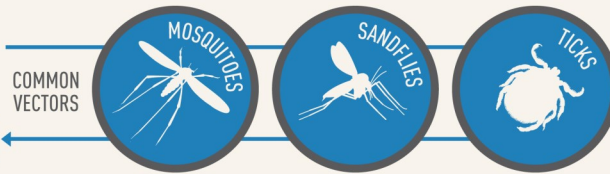
- McMullan L, Folk S, et al. A New Phlebovirus Associated with Severe Febrile Illness in Missouri. *N Engl J Med* 2012;367:834-41.
- Savage H, Godsey M, et al. First Detection of Heartland Virus (Bunyaviridae: Phlebovirus) from Field Collected Arthropods. *Am JTrop Med Hyg.* 2013;89:445-52.
- Pastula DM, Turabelidze G, et al. Heartland Virus Disease—United States, 2012-2013. *MMWR.* 2014;63:270-1.
- Riemersma KK, Komar N. Heartland virus neutralizing antibodies in vertebrate wildlife, United States, 2009-2014. *Emerg. Infect Dis.* 21: Oct. 2015.



# VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

## VECTORS MAY BE A THREAT TO YOU, AT HOME AND WHEN TRAVELLING

**VECTORS** ARE SMALL ORGANISMS THAT CARRY SERIOUS DISEASES



**WITH JUST 1 BITE** they can transmit diseases such as:

- Malaria
- Dengue
- Leishmaniasis
- Lyme disease
- Yellow fever
- Japanese encephalitis



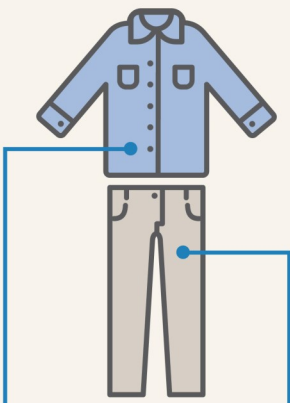
**Diseases** spread by vectors **kill a million people** every year and **more than half of the world's population is at risk**

## TAKE SIMPLE MEASURES TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

Get vaccinated against yellow fever and Japanese encephalitis



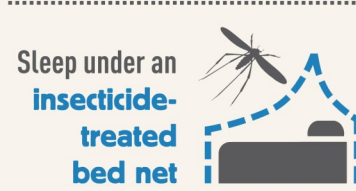
Install  window screens 



**Wear** light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and trousers



Use **insect repellent**



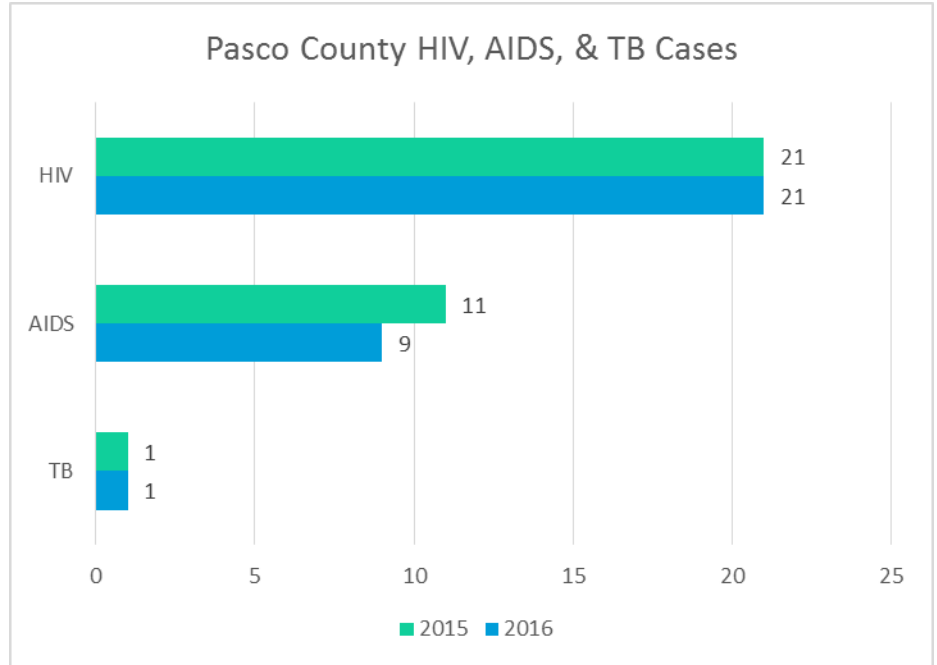
Sleep under an **insecticide-treated bed net**



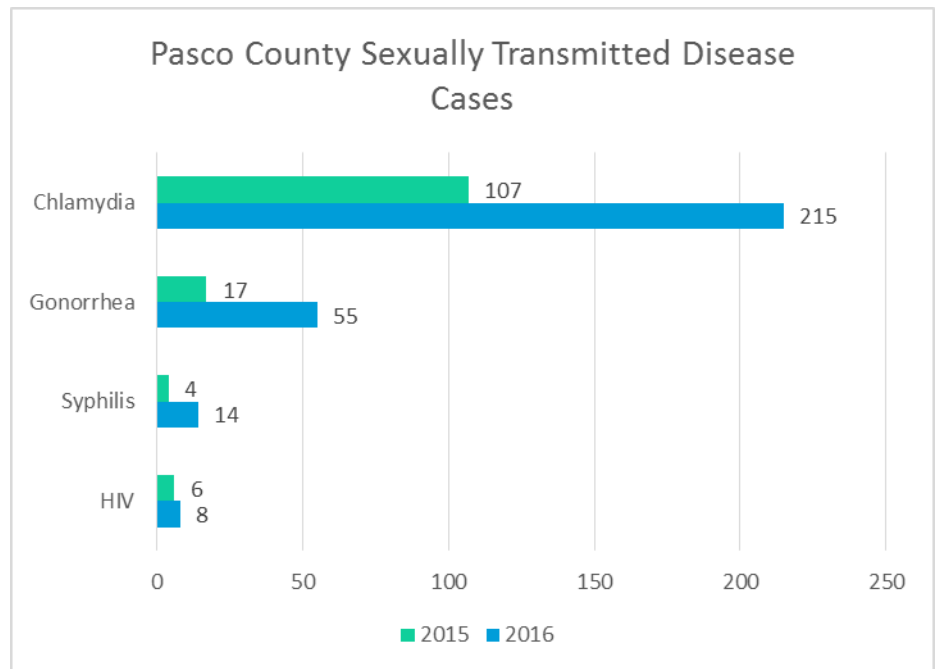
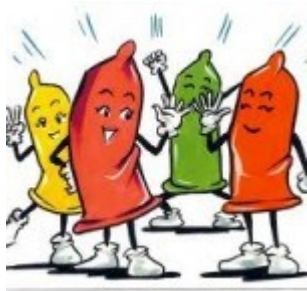
**Get rid of** stagnant water from places **where mosquitoes breed**, such as in old containers, flower pots and used tyres

 For more information, contact your health-care professional [www.who.int/world-health-day](http://www.who.int/world-health-day)

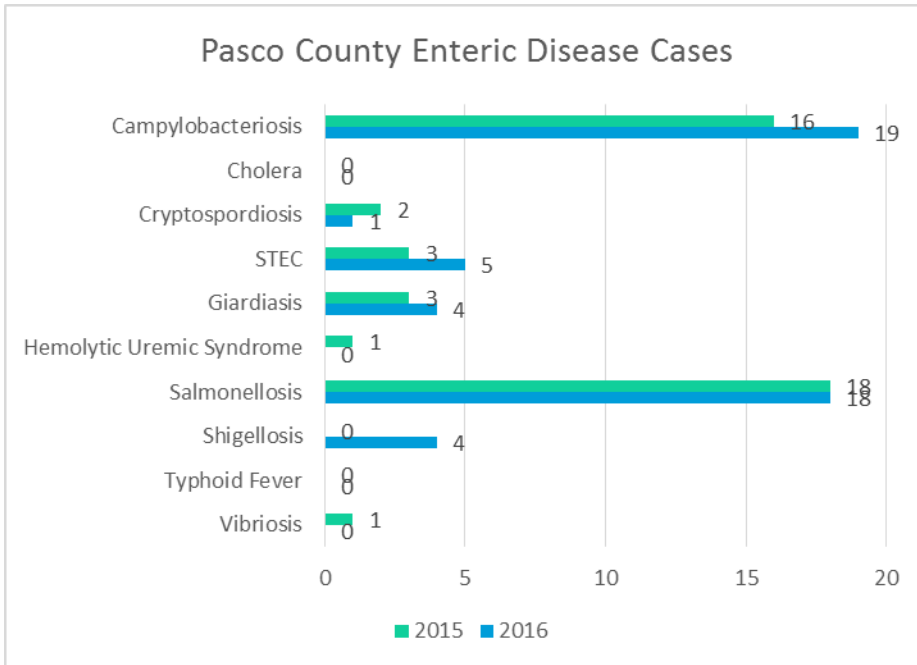
### HIV, AIDS, & TB 1st Quarter Summary



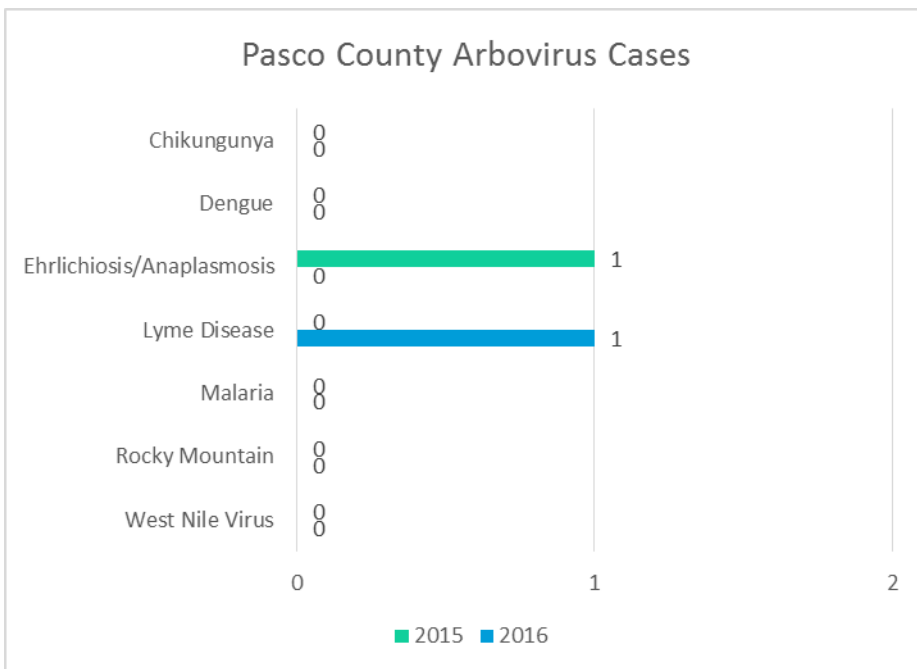
### Sexually Transmitted Disease 1st Quarter Summary



### Enteric Disease 1st Quarter



### Arbovirus 1st Quarter



Disease Summary 1st Quarter 2016	Jan - Mar		YTD	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
<b>CNS Diseases and Bacteremias</b>				
Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD)	-	-	-	-
Haemophilus influenzae	-	1	-	1
Legionellosis	2	-	2	-
Listeriosis	-	1	-	1
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic	-	1	-	1
Meningococcal Disease	-	-	-	-
Strep pneumoniae Invasive Disease, Drug-Resistant	2	-	2	-
Strep pneumoniae Invasive Disease, Drug-Susceptible	2	4	2	4
<b>Enteric Infections</b>				
Campylobacteriosis	19	16	19	16
Cholera (Vibrio cholerae Type O1)	-	-	-	-
Cryptosporidiosis	1	2	1	2
Cyclosporiasis	-	-	-	-
Escherichia coli Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC)	5	3	5	3
Giardiasis	4	3	4	3
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	-	1	-	1
Salmonellosis	18	18	18	18
Shigellosis	4	-	4	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-
Vibriosis	-	1	-	1
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b>				
Measles	-	-	-	-
Mumps	-	1	-	1
Pertussis	4	5	4	5
Varicella	2	6	2	6
<b>Vector Borne, Zoonoses</b>				
Chikungunya Fever	-	-	-	-
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis	-	1	-	1
Lyme Disease	1	-	1	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-
Rabies, Animal	-	1	-	1
Rabies, Possible Exposure	37	49	37	49
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Rickettsiosis	-	-	-	-
West Nile Virus Neuroinvasive Disease	-	-	-	-
<b>Viral Hepatitis</b>				
Hepatitis A	1	2	1	2
Hepatitis B, Acute	27	19	27	19
Hepatitis B, Chronic	25	25	25	25
Hepatitis B, Surface Antigen in Pregnant Women	-	3	-	3
Hepatitis C, Acute	7	-	7	-
Hepatitis C, Chronic	229	211	229	211
Hepatitis E	-	-	-	-
<b>Other</b>				
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	2	1	2	1
Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality	-	-	-	-
Lead Poisoning	8	7	8	7
Mercury Poisoning	1	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>382</b>



# Reportable Diseases/Conditions in Florida

Practitioner List (Laboratory Requirements Differ)

Effective June 4, 2014



Did you know that you are required\* to report certain diseases to your local county health department?

Florida Department of Health in Pasco County - Epidemiology  
 13941 15th Street, Dade City, FL 33525  
 Phone (352) 521 - 1450 option 2  
 After Hours Reporting (727) 257 - 1177 (pager)  
 Confidential Fax (352) 521 - 1435

- ! Report immediately 24/7 by phone upon initial suspicion or laboratory test order
- ☎ Report immediately 24/7 by phone
  - Report next business day
  - + Other reporting timeframe

- ! Outbreaks of any disease, any case, cluster of cases, or exposure to an infectious or non-infectious disease, condition, or agent found in the general community or any defined setting (e.g., hospital, school, other institution) not listed that is of urgent public health significance
- + Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- ☎ Amebic encephalitis
- ! Anthrax
- Arsenic poisoning
- Arboviral diseases not otherwise listed
- ! Botulism, foodborne, wound, and unspecified
- Botulism, infant
- ! Brucellosis
- California serogroup virus disease
- Campylobacteriosis
- + Cancer, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer and including benign and borderline intracranial and CNS tumors
- Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Chancroid
- Chikungunya fever
- ☎ Chikungunya fever, locally acquired
- Chlamydia
- ! Cholera (*Vibrio cholerae* type O1)
- Ciguatera fish poisoning
- + Congenital anomalies
- Conjunctivitis in neonates <14 days old
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Cyclosporiasis
- Dengue fever
- ☎ Dengue fever, locally acquired
- ! Diphtheria
- Eastern equine encephalitis
- Ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis
- *Escherichia coli* infection, Shiga toxin-producing
- Giardiasis, acute
- ! Glanders
- Gonorrhea

- Granuloma inguinale
- ! *Haemophilus influenzae* invasive disease in children <5 years old
- Hansen's disease (leprosy)
- ☎ Hantavirus infection
- ☎ Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)
- ☎ Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B, C, D, E, and G
- Hepatitis B surface antigen in pregnant women or children <2 years old
- ☎ Herpes B virus, possible exposure
- Herpes simplex virus (HSV) in infants <60 days old with disseminated infection and liver involvement; encephalitis; and infections limited to skin, eyes, and mouth; anogenital HSV in children <12 years old
- + Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection
- HIV, exposed infants <18 months old born to an HIV-infected woman
- Human papillomavirus (HPV), associated laryngeal papillomas or recurrent respiratory papillomatosis in children <6 years old; anogenital papillomas in children <12 years old
- ! Influenza A, novel or pandemic strains
- ☎ Influenza-associated pediatric mortality in children <18 years old
- Lead poisoning
- Legionellosis
- Leptospirosis
- ☎ Listeriosis
- Lyme disease
- Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV)
- Malaria
- ! Measles (rubeola)
- ! Melioidosis
- Meningitis, bacterial or mycotic
- ! Meningococcal disease
- Mercury poisoning
- Mumps
- + Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)
- ☎ Neurotoxic shellfish poisoning
- ☎ Pertussis
- Pesticide-related illness and injury, acute

- ! Plague
- ! Poliomyelitis
- Psittacosis (ornithosis)
- Q Fever
- ☎ Rabies, animal or human
- ! Rabies, possible exposure
- ! Ricin toxin poisoning
- Rocky Mountain spotted fever and other spotted fever rickettsioses
- ! Rubella
- St. Louis encephalitis
- Salmonellosis
- Saxitoxin poisoning (paralytic shellfish poisoning)
- ! Severe acute respiratory disease syndrome associated with coronavirus infection
- Shigellosis
- ! Smallpox
- ☎ Staphylococcal enterotoxin B poisoning
- ☎ *Staphylococcus aureus* infection, intermediate or full resistance to vancomycin (VISA, VRSA)
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* invasive disease in children <6 years old
- Syphilis
- ☎ Syphilis in pregnant women and neonates
- Tetanus
- Trichinellosis (trichinosis)
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- ! Tularemia
- ☎ Typhoid fever (*Salmonella* serotype Typhi)
- ! Typhus fever, epidemic
- ! Vaccinia disease
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- ! Venezuelan equine encephalitis
- Vibriosis (infections of *Vibrio* species and closely related organisms, excluding *Vibrio cholerae* type O1)
- ! Viral hemorrhagic fevers
- West Nile virus disease
- ! Yellow fever

\*Section 381.0031 (2), *Florida Statutes* (F.S.), provides that "Any practitioner licensed in this state to practice medicine, osteopathic medicine, chiropractic medicine, naturopathy, or veterinary medicine; any hospital licensed under part I of chapter 395; or any laboratory licensed under chapter 483 that diagnoses or suspects the existence of a disease of public health significance shall immediately report the fact to the Department of Health." Florida's county health departments serve as the Department's representative in this reporting requirement. Furthermore, Section 381.0031 (4), F.S. provides that "The department shall periodically issue a list of infectious or noninfectious diseases determined by it to be a threat to public health and therefore of significance to public health and shall furnish a copy of the list to the practitioners..."