

Public Health Messages

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
September 25, 2018



Public Health Messages are a way for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to provide information and recommended guidance to medical providers and hospitals on current issues relating to medical care and public health. They are sent out through the Missouri Health Notification System (MOHNS), and go to the same individuals and facilities that receive DHSS Health Alerts and Health Advisories. **Public Health Messages** do not replace Health Alerts and Health Advisories, but rather provide an additional way for DHSS to communicate, in the form of brief messages, with providers and hospitals.

Contents

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Clinical Toolkit

Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: 2018-19

Fentanyl Safety Recommendations and Training Video for First Responders

Selected Recent DHSS and CDC Health Alerts, Advisories, Updates, and Guidances

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Clinical Toolkit

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is the most deadly tick-borne disease in the United States. Annually 3,000-5,000 cases of RMSF and other spotted fever rickettsioses are reported nationwide, including 5-10 deaths and substantially more severe cases. However, effective treatment is available, and severe and fatal cases of RMSF can be prevented through early recognition and proper management, including appropriate antibiotic use.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a clinical toolkit for healthcare providers, epidemiologists, and public health practitioners on the diagnosis and treatment of RMSF and other tick-borne diseases. Key learning objectives of the toolkit include:

- RMSF is a rapidly progressing tick-borne disease with early stage non-specific symptoms.
- Doxycycline is the drug of choice for treating people of all ages.
- Treatment is most effective when started within the first 5 days.

The toolkit provides a narrated training video, physician pocket card for RMSF, poster with key clinical facts and images, and the most recent version of *Tick-Borne Diseases of the United States: A Reference Manual for Healthcare Providers*. Continuing education credit is available. To access the toolkit, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/resources/toolkit.html>.

For information on tick-borne diseases from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), go to <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/tickscarrydisease/>.

For questions, call DHSS' Office of Veterinary Public Health at 573-751-6113, or email DHSS.OVPH@health.mo.gov.

Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: 2018-19

On August 24, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued its recommendations for the use of seasonal influenza vaccines in the United States for the 2018-19 influenza season. Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications.

Following two seasons (2016-17 and 2017-18) during which ACIP recommended that LAIV4 not be used, ACIP voted in February 2018 to recommend that for the 2018-19 season, vaccination providers may choose to administer any licensed, age-appropriate influenza vaccine (IIV, RIV4, or LAIV4). LAIV4 is an option for those for whom it is appropriate, as described in the ACIP statement.

The ACIP recommendations are available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/pdfs/rr6703a1-H.pdf>.

Information from CDC on influenza for health professionals is found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm>

If you have questions, please contact DHSS' Bureau of Immunizations at 573-526-7688.

Fentanyl Safety Recommendations and Training Video for First Responders

First responders – including emergency medical services (EMS) providers, law enforcement officers, and firefighters – are increasingly likely to encounter fentanyl and other synthetic opioids during the course of their daily activities, such as overdose calls, traffic stops, arrests, and searches. To help first responders protect themselves when the presence of fentanyl is suspected or encountered, a Federal Interagency Working Group coordinated by the National Security Council developed ***Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders*** and the companion training video, ***Fentanyl: The Real Deal***.

Informed by expertise from the medical, public health, law enforcement, fire/EMS, and occupational safety and health disciplines, these science-based recommendations include:

- Actions first responders can take to protect themselves from exposure.
- Actions first responders can take when exposure occurs.
- Actions first responders can take when they or their partners exhibit signs of opioid intoxication.

Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders is available at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/Final%20STANDARD%20size%20of%20Fentanyl%20Safety%20Recommendations%20for%20First%20Respond....pdf>

The companion video, *Fentanyl: The Real Deal*, is found at:

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/video-gallery/video-library/fentanyl-real-deal#>

Information on fentanyl from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fentanyl/>

Information for medical providers on issues related to opioid overdoses is found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/index.html>

For more information on the opioids crisis in Missouri, go to:

<https://health.mo.gov/data/opioids/>

Selected Recent DHSS and CDC Health Alerts, Advisories, Updates, and Guidances

- Hurricane Florence—Clinical Guidance for Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning (9.17.18, CDC Health Advisory)
- Advice to Clinicians about Leptospirosis in U.S. Travelers Returning from Northern Israel (9.7.18, CDC Health Advisory)
- Tick-Borne Disease Health Guidance (7.12.18, DHSS Health Guidance)
- Rising Numbers of Deaths Involving Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogs, Including Carfentanil, and Increased Usage and Mixing with Non-opioids (7.12.18, CDC Health Update)
- Outbreak of Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) Infections Among Persons Who Use Drugs and Persons Experiencing Homelessness (6.14.18, DHSS Health Advisory)
- Update – CDC Recommendations for Managing and Reporting Shigella Infections with Possible Reduced Susceptibility to Ciprofloxacin (6.8.18, CDC Health Update)
- Outbreak of Life-threatening Coagulopathy Associated with Synthetic Cannabinoids Use (5.25.18, CDC Health Advisory)

These, along with previous Health Alerts, Advisories, Updates, and Guidances, can be accessed by going to <http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/alertsadvisories/index.php>. If anyone wishes to have new Health Alerts, Advisories, Updates, and Guidances sent directly to his/her email, call DHSS' Emergency Response Center (ERC) at 800-392-0272.