



# Microbe Monthly

Communicable Disease Report

January 2012

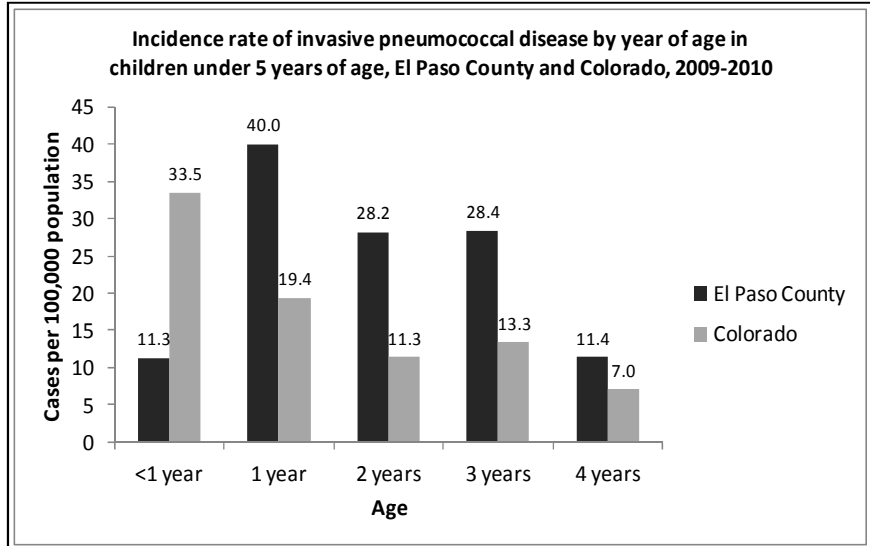
El Paso County Public Health  
Communicable Disease/TB Program

## Use of 13-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV13)

On February 24, 2010, a 13-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide-protein conjugate vaccine (PCV13) was licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for prevention of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) and otitis media in infants and young children. PCV13 contains the seven serotypes included in PCV7 (serotypes 4, 6B, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F, and 23F) and six additional serotypes (serotypes 1, 3, 5, 6A, 7F, and 19A). PCV13 is approved for use among children aged 6 weeks to 71 months and supersedes PCV7, which was licensed by FDA in 2000. On March 12, 2010, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published recommendations for use of PCV13 to replace PCV7 for all children and for a supplemental dose for those aged 14 through 59 months. Children only vaccinated with PCV7 are still susceptible to the six additional serotypes in PCV13.

National immunization coverage data from 2010 to 2011 indicated that the proportion of PCV7-vaccinated children in the United States who had received the PCV13 supplemental dose was only 37%. Similarly, among children less than 60 months requiring additional primary series doses, PCV13 coverage was only 46%. The data demonstrates that health care providers should identify opportunities for PCV13 'catch-up' vaccination for all eligible children aged 14 through 59 months during any office visit, and continue to ensure receipt of the full PCV13 primary series for younger children.

The graph shows rates of invasive pneumococcal disease in children under 5 years of age for El Paso County and Colorado. El Paso County rates remain above the state average for children 1 to 4 years old, underscoring the need for children under 5 years of age who have completed a course of PCV7 to receive a dose of PCV13.



Also, on December 30, 2011, the FDA announced

approval of the use of the PCV13 vaccine in people age 50 and older to prevent pneumonia and invasive disease. "According to recent information for the United States, it is estimated that approximately 300,000 adults 50 years of age and older are hospitalized yearly because of pneumococcal pneumonia," said Karen Midthun, M.D., of FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. For more information on pneumococcal disease and vaccine, visit [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/streppneum\\_a.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/streppneum_a.htm).

## El Paso County Communicable Disease Trends — Reports Received in December

- 62 communicable disease cases: infant botulism (1), Campylobacter (4), Cryptosporidiosis (1), Giardia (8), Haemophilus influenzae (2), chronic hepatitis B (2), influenza – hospitalized (13), invasive pneumococcal disease (2), pertussis (15), Salmonella (5), viral meningitis (7), and varicella (2)
- 9 outbreaks: 1 pertussis outbreak involving 2 homes and a middle school (6 cases identified and 25 contacts were recommended preventive medication); 1 outbreak of impetigo/herpes skin infections among high school wrestling teams from 4 different school districts; and 7 gastrointestinal illness/suspect norovirus outbreaks in an elementary school, medical office, correctional facility, and 4 long-term care facilities.
- Tuberculosis (TB) Program staff conducted Direct Observed Therapy (DOT) for 5 active or suspect active TB cases.

## Hot Topics: State and National

- At the end of December, Colorado **influenza** activity remained low, with a season total of 41 reported influenza hospitalizations from 10 counties (including 15 from El Paso County). Cumulatively, 97% of PCR-positive specimens tested at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have subtyped as influenza A H3, 2% as 2009 H1N1, and 1% have confirmed as influenza type B.
- The FDA, CDC and state health officials have investigated 4 recent cases of **Cronobacter** infection in infants in 4 states (FL, IL, MO, OK). *Cronobacter* is a very rare cause of a severe bacterial sepsis or meningitis in neonates. This bacteria is commonly found in the environment, but outbreaks have been associated with contaminated powdered infant formula. Based on the investigation of recent cases thus far, no specific risk with infant formula has been identified. Providers are urged to report any suspected or confirmed case of Cronobacter infection in infants occurring since November 1, 2011 to Public Health. For more information visit [www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/s1230\\_Cronobacter.html](http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/s1230_Cronobacter.html).

## Contact Information

**El Paso County Public Health has moved to the Citizens Service Center at 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road.**

### CD/TB Program

Weekday Hours (M-F) 719-578-3220  
After-Hours Emergency 719-235-2278

**Public Health's regular hours are Monday—Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
[www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org)