

# What's Going Around: A Weekly Communicable Disease Report

## Diseases and Conditions Reported During January 5-11, 2020

*This report is a weekly snapshot of communicable diseases reported in El Paso County, as well as a report of disease trends and local health alerts. El Paso County Public Health's Communicable Disease Program partners with the medical community and the public to limit and stop the spread of diseases in our community.*

### Diseases Reported January 5 -11, 2020:

- 5 Animal Bites— 4 adults, 1 pediatric
- 1 Campylobacteriosis— adult
- 1 Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA)— adult
- 2 Cryptosporidiosis— adults
- 1 Hepatitis B, chronic— adult
- 9 Hepatitis C, chronic— adults
- 11 Hospitalized influenza— adults
- 1 Pertussis— adult
- 1 Strep pneumo, invasive— adult
- 1 Varicella (chicken pox)- adult

### Additional Reports:

- Total hospitalized influenza cases in El Paso County from September 29, 2019– January 11, 2020: 119
- Total number of animals that have tested positive for rabies in 2020: 0
- Gastrointestinal illness complaints, possibly foodborne, associated with a retail food establishment: 2

### Health News: Latent Tuberculosis

- Each year, EPCPH treats between five and ten active cases of tuberculosis disease (TB). Many more El Paso County residents have latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).
- A person with LTBI is asymptomatic and not infectious, but will usually have a positive TB skin test (TST) or TB blood test (IGRA).
- Generally, people with LTBI have a 5% lifetime risk of developing active disease. The risk of developing disease is higher for children under 5 and people with weakened immune systems.
- High risk groups should be tested for LTBI. In the United States, risk of LTBI is highest among the following groups:
  - People who frequently travel to or who were born in countries where TB disease is common.
  - People who live in large group settings, such as homeless shelters, prisons, or jails.
- The Centers for Disease Control also recommend regular testing for health care workers and patients with a higher risk of developing TB disease once they are infected. Health problems that increase risk for TB disease include:
  - HIV
  - Substance use disorder
  - Silicosis
  - Severe kidney disease
  - Low body weight
  - Medical treatments such as corticosteroids or organ transplant
  - Diabetes mellitus
  - Head and neck cancer
  - Treatment for rheumatoid arthritis or Crohn's disease
- Four treatment regimens are available for LTBI using a combination of antibiotics (isoniazid, rifampentine, or rifampin). Depending on the regimen, treatment requires three to nine months.
- EPCPH is available to primary care providers for consultation on the benefits and risks associated with treatment regimens for individual patients. The TB program can be reached at 719-578-3220.

LATENT TB INFECTION	ACTIVE TB DISEASE
Asymptomatic	Symptoms: cough, fever, weight loss, night sweats, loss of appetite, and fatigue.
Normal chest x-ray	Chest x-ray may be abnormal
Not infectious	Infectious
Positive TB skin or blood test	Positive sputum tests
Treatment needed to prevent active disease	Treatment required to treat TB disease

**Questions? Please Contact:**

**El Paso County Public Health CD/TB Program**  
 Hours: M-F, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 (719) 578-3220; *after-hours emergency: (719) 235-2278*  
 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
 (303) 692-2700; *after-hours emergency: (303) 370-9395*  
[www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org)  
[Reportable Diseases and Conditions List](#)