

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES NEWSLETTER JOPLIN/JASPER COUNTY

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Campylobacteriosis

Campylobacteriosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria of the genus *Campylobacter*. Most people who become ill with campylobacteriosis get diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain, and fever within two to five days after exposure to the organism. The diarrhea may be bloody and can be accompanied by nausea and vomiting. The illness typically lasts about one week. Some infected persons do not have any symptoms. In persons with compromised immune systems, *Campylobacter* occasionally spreads to the bloodstream and causes a serious life-threatening infection.

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Did You Know?

The term Campylobacter comes from the Greek word meaning “curved rod” referring to the bacteria’s curved shape.

Encyclopedia.com



Source: kidshealth.org

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How Common is *Campylobacter*?

Campylobacter is one of the most common causes of diarrheal illness in the United States. Most cases occur as isolated, sporadic events, not as part of recognized outbreaks. Active surveillance through the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) indicates that about 14 cases are diagnosed each year for each 100,000 persons in the population. Many more cases go undiagnosed or unreported, and campylobacteriosis is estimated to affect over 1.3 million persons every year. Campylobacteriosis occurs much more frequently in the summer months than in the winter. The organism is isolated from infants and young adults more frequently than from persons in other age groups and from males more frequently than females. Although *Campylobacter* infection does not commonly cause death, it has been estimated that approximately 76 persons with *Campylobacter* infections die each year.

How Do You Get *Campylobacteriosis*?

Campylobacteriosis usually occurs in single, sporadic cases, but it can also occur in outbreaks, when two or more people become ill from the same source. Most cases of campylobacteriosis are associated with eating raw or undercooked poultry meat (chicken, turkey, etc.) or from cross-contamination of other foods by these items. Outbreaks of *Campylobacter* have most often been associated with unpasteurized (unprocessed/raw) dairy products, contaminated water, poultry, and produce. Animals can also be infected, and some people get infected from contact with the stool of an ill dog or cat. The organism is not usually spread from one person to another, but this can happen if the infected person is producing a large volume of diarrhea.

It only takes a very few *Campylobacter* organisms (fewer than 500) to make a person sick. Even one drop of juice from raw chicken meat can have enough *Campylobacter* in it to infect a person! One way to become infected is to cut poultry meat on a cutting board, and then use the unwashed cutting board or utensil to prepare vegetables or other raw or lightly cooked foods. The *Campylobacter* organisms from the raw meat can get onto the other foods.

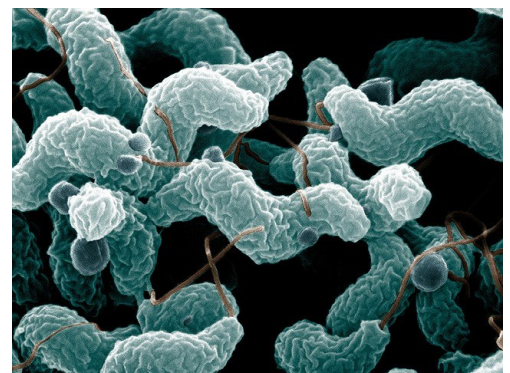
How is Treated?

Almost all persons infected with *Campylobacter* recover without any specific treatment. Patients should drink extra fluids as long as the diarrhea lasts. Antimicrobial therapy is warranted only for patients with severe disease or those at high risk for severe disease, such as those with immune systems severely weakened from medications or other illnesses. Azithromycin and fluoroquinolones (e.g., ciprofloxacin) are commonly used for treatment of these infections, but resistance to fluoroquinolones is common. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing can help guide appropriate therapy.

Source: [CDC](#)

How to Prevent *Campylobacter* Infection:

- Cook all poultry products thoroughly. All poultry should be cooked to reach a minimum internal temperature of 165°F.
- If you are served undercooked poultry in a restaurant, send it back for further cooking.
- Wash hands with soap before preparing food.
- Wash hands with soap after handling raw foods of animal origin and before touching anything else.
- Prevent cross-contamination in the kitchen by using separate cutting boards for foods of animal origin and other foods, and by thoroughly cleaning all cutting boards, countertops, and utensils with soap and hot water after preparing raw food of animal origin.
- Do not drink unpasteurized milk or untreated surface water.
- Make sure that persons with diarrhea, especially children, wash their hands carefully and frequently with soap to reduce the risk of spreading the infection.
- Wash hands with soap after contact with pet feces.



2015-2016 Flu Update

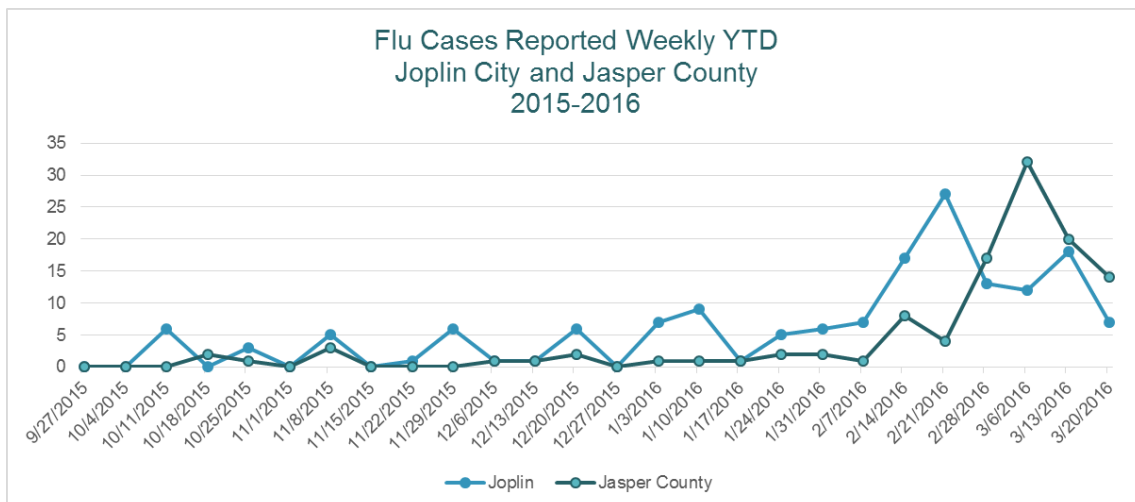
The 2015-2016 flu season has seen significantly lower numbers than last year's flu season. *To-date, Joplin has had 158 influenza cases reported and Jasper County has reported 113 cases. Last year at this time, Joplin had a total of 843 cases while Jasper County had 815 cases. This difference in the number of cases is consistent across Missouri as there have been a total of 13,598 laboratory-positive influenza cases to-date compared with 49,805 cases through the same week in the 2014-2015 season. Influenza B has been the most common type of influenza for Joplin (60.1%) thus far while Jasper County has seen a greater number of Influenza A cases (59.3%). The 5-14 age group has experienced the greatest number of cases in both Joplin City (46) and Jasper County (29). Analysis of cases reported was based on age, type of influenza, and jurisdiction.

Type of Influenza	Season TD	% of Total
Influenza A	58	36.7
Influenza B	95	60.1
Unknown/Untyped	5	3.2
Total	158	100

Type of Influenza	Season TD	% of Total
Influenza A	67	59.3
Influenza B	45	39.8
Unknown/Untyped	1	0.9
Total	113	100

Age Group	Season TD	% of Total
0-1	18	11.4
2-4	8	5.1
5-14	46	29.1
15-24	17	10.8
25-49	33	20.9
50-64	18	11.4
65+	18	11.4
Total	158	100

Age Group	Season TD	% of Total
0-1	8	7.1
2-4	9	8
5-14	29	25.7
15-24	20	17.7
25-49	28	24.8
50-64	13	11.5
65+	6	5.3
Total	113	100



*Source: Joplin City/Jasper County HD Flu Surveillance, 2015-2016. Data is from week beginning October 4, 2015 to week beginning March 20, 2016. Data is preliminary and may be subject to change.

For more information on flu activity, visit the [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov) website.

Table 5, Communicable Disease Reported in Joplin/Jasper County 2015 and 2016 (January 1-March 31)

	Joplin		Jasper County	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Anaplasma Phagocytophilum	0	1	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	5	4	5	13
Coccidioidomycosis	1	0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0	0
Dengue Fever	0	0	0	1
E.Coli O157 H7	0	2	0	0
Ehrlichia Chaffeensis	0	1	1	0
Giardiasis	0	0	1	1
Haemophilus Influenzae, Invasive	1	0	2	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	2	5	0	2
Hepatitis B Acute	1	2	1	0
Hepatitis B Chronic Infection	3	3	2	1
Hepatitis C	0	4	0	1
Hepatitis C Chronic Infection	23	15	25	9
Legionellosis	0	2	0	1
MOTT	3	2	3	1
Other	0	0	0	1
Pertussis	1	0	1	2
Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis	1	0	0	0
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	0	0	2	0
Salmonellosis	4	0	1	2
Shigellosis	0	0	0	1
Strep Disease, Group A Invasive	1	1	1	0
TB Disease	0	0	1	0
TB Infection	8	3	15	11
Tetanus	0	0	1	0
Toxic Shock (Staph) Syndrome	0	1	0	0
Varicella (Chickenpox)	2	2	2	3
Total Cases Per Year	57	48	64	51

Key

2016 more than 2015	
2016 less than 2015	

Source: DHSS

Table 6, Sexually Transmitted Diseases Jasper County

	2014	2015
Chlamydia	510	529
Gonorrhea	40	62
Syphilis	3	8
Total	553	599

According to the data in Table 6, we saw a slight rise in sexually transmitted diseases for Jasper County in 2015 (599 cases) compared to 2014 (553 cases). Chlamydia continued to be the most occurring STD while Syphilis was the least occurring STD in Jasper County. Data for STD count is tracked by the Department of Health and Senior Services and is subject to change as reports are collected.

Source: DHSS

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