



Bureau Looks for Continued Growth in 80%ers

Bureau of Communicable Diseases Director Sandra Breitborde and State Epidemiologist Dr. Jeff Davis are ready to sign “80% Club” certificates again this year.

“It was an honor to recognize the tremendous achievement of 35 hospitals and 72 nursing homes during the 2007-08 influenza season,” they report. “We hope to sign so many certificates this year, our hands fall off!”

So let’s keep ‘em signing certificates till they beg for mercy—good luck everyone, and keep up those tremendous efforts.

—Gwen Borlaug

Northeast Wisconsin APIC Chapter To Host Long Term Care Conference

“Living with Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines: Finding the Balance in Long Term Care,” is the title of a one day conference sponsored by the Northeast Wisconsin APIC Chapter on Friday, November 7 at Park View Health Center in Oshkosh.

Application of the 2007 CDC isolation guidelines to long term care settings and the new SHEA/APIC long term care infection control guidelines will be discussed by speakers Dr. Philip Smith and Peggy Luebbert, RN.

“Our goals,” explains NEW APIC Chapter President Anna Malek, “are to help those with infection prevention responsibilities in long term care settings implement effective infection prevention practices while maintaining a home-like environment, and to ensure adherence to CMS infection control regulations within the context of a social

model of care.”

Dr. Smith is an infectious disease physician at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and has received several honors including the Robert D. Sparks Award for Achievement in Public Health and Prevention Medicine. Ms. Luebbert, MS, MT, CIC, has extensive experience as an infection prevention professional in long term care and is currently a consultant for several health care organizations.

The \$10 conference registration fee will be donated, along with matching funds from NEW APIC, to the Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Association.

Attendance is limited to the first 100 registrants, so submit your registration today (see reprint of brochure information on Page 5).

Southeastern Wisconsin APIC Chapter Supports Pressure Ulcer Coalition

Members of Southeastern Wisconsin (SEW) APIC at the October chapter meeting voted to donate \$2,000 to the recently formed Wisconsin Pressure Ulcer Coalition after hearing a presentation from coalition project leaders who reported on the success of similar collaborative efforts in other states.

Kristin Lueschow, RN, Quality Consultant for Metastar, reported that the New Jersey Hospital Association began a statewide quality initiative to bring together providers across the care continuum to target reduction of pressure ulcers, especially in patients who move among levels of care.

“The goal in New Jersey was to reduce the incidence of pressure ulcers by 25 per cent,” explains

Lueschow, “and with the help of over a hundred partners, the incidence was reduced by an impressive 70 per cent—from an incidence of 18 per cent to an average of five per cent across the care continuum over a two year period.” Furthermore, the prevalence rate was reduced by 30 per cent.

The Wisconsin Pressure Ulcer Coalition consists of approximately 130 nursing homes, hospitals, home health agencies, assisted living facilities, and hospice centers that have made a one year commitment to the project and must pay a fee to belong. Among other members are the Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the Wisconsin Health Care Association, the Wisconsin Hospital Association, the Wisconsin Assisted Living Association, the Department of

Health Services Division of Quality Assurance, Metastar, and several corporate sponsors.

“As infection prevention professionals,” notes Patti Wilson, SEW APIC Chapter President, “we know the collaborative approach to prevention has a proven track record, and we are happy and proud to support this coalition. Our patients and residents will greatly benefit from this important work.”

The project is set to begin late this year. For more information about how individuals and organizations can participate, contact Jenny Harrison, Project Lead for Metastar, at 2909 Landmark Place, Madison, WI 53713, call 608-441-8222 or email to:

jharriso@metastar.com



WEDSS UPDATE

WI ELECTRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

WEDSS training and implementation is being conducted within the Southeastern Region. Several laboratories already have a daily electronic feed into WEDSS and more continue to be added.

Several hospital infection control departments also enter communicable disease reports into the system manually (see list of reporting providers below). Statewide implementation will continue through 2008 and 2009.

Contact your local health department or the Division of Public Health WEDSS staff at DHSWEDSS@wisconsin.gov to learn more about the electronic disease surveillance system.

WEDSS Resources on the Health Alert Network

Browse WEDSS documents by following the path: Topics / Integrated Data Systems / WEDSS. Specific resources are accessible via the following links:

WEDSS Reporter User Manual
https://www.han.wisc.edu/mod_news/news_view.jsp?id=21936

WEDSS Reporter instructions for ICPs-9-29-08
https://www.han.wisc.edu/mod_news/news_view.jsp?id=21936

WEDSS Admin Manual
https://www.han.wisc.edu/mod_news/news_view.jsp?id=20078

WEDSS Data Entry Standards

https://www.han.wisc.edu/mod_news/news_view.jsp?id=20201

WEDSS Implementation Package

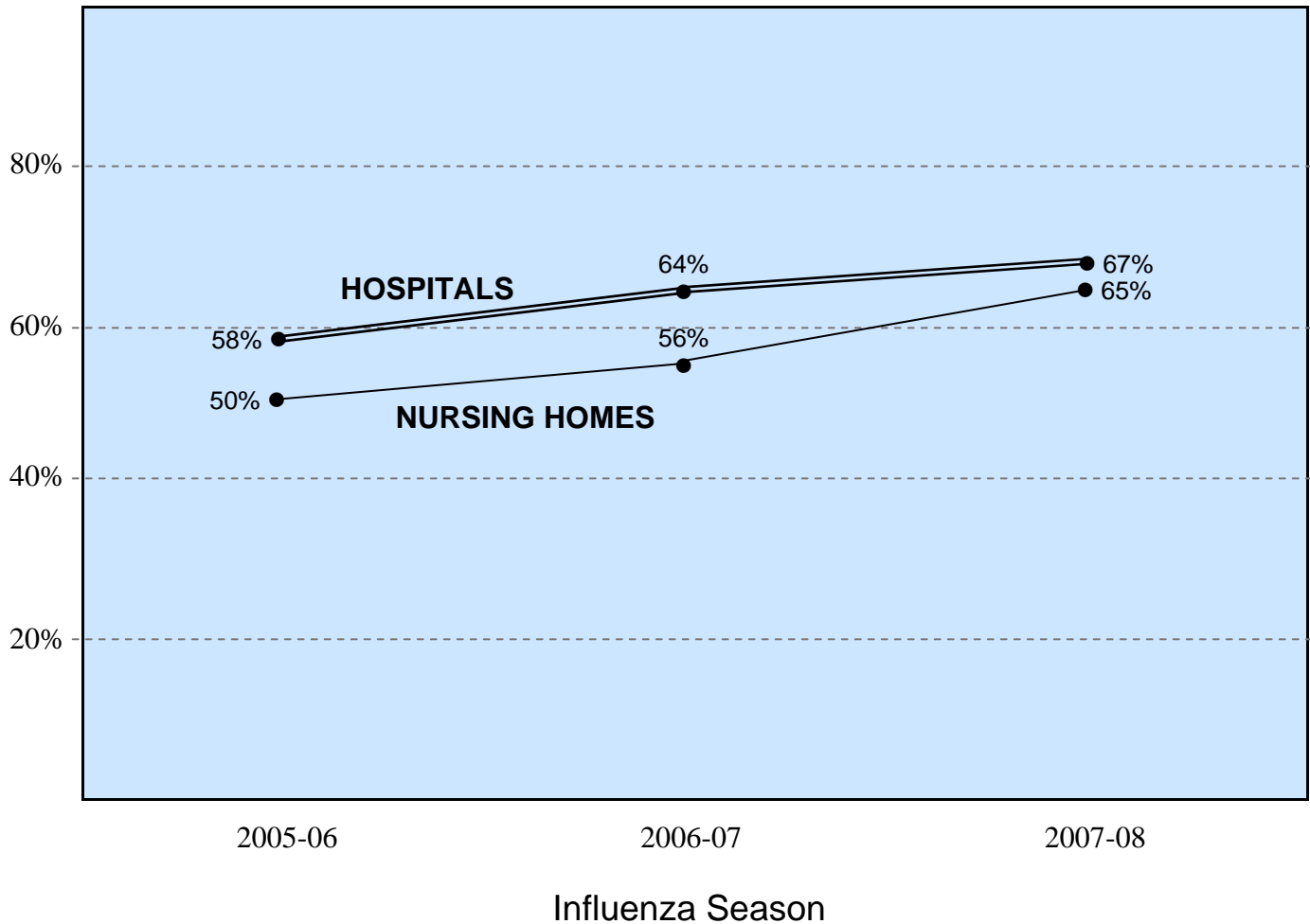
https://www.han.wisc.edu/mod_news/news_view.jsp?id=19588

Current WEDSS Agency Users as of September 2008

Health Departments: Brown County Health Dept, Burnett County Health Dept, Cudahy Health Dept, Public Health Madison-Dane, De Pere Health Dept, Greenfield Health Dept, City of Milwaukee Health Dept, Northshore Health Dept, Oak Creek Health Dept, Oneida Tribal Health Center, Sheboygan County Health Dept (TB only), South Milwaukee Health Dept, Waukesha County Health Dept.

Reporting Providers: Aurora Baycare Health Center, Bellin Memorial Hospital, Dean Health System Laboratory, Ingalls Family Medicine Clinic, City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory, St. Luke's Medical Center (Milwaukee), St. Luke's Southshore (Cudahy), St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center-Green Bay, St. Vincent Hospital (Green Bay), West Allis Memorial Hospital, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

Median Employee Vaccination Rates



More Wisconsin Healthcare Workers Vaccinated Against Influenza

Wisconsin hospital and nursing home employee influenza vaccination rates (EIVRs) increased for the second consecutive year during the 2007-08 influenza season,

according to the Bureau of Communicable Diseases annual employee influenza vaccination survey report.

The median hospital EIVR has increased from 58% in 2005-06 to 67%, a 16% increase over the three-year period. Median EIVR rates in nursing homes increased by 30%, up from 50% in 2005-06 to the current 65%.

Most of the reporting hospitals (70%) and nursing homes (60%) used signed declination forms for employees refusing vaccination. Those that use them have higher EIVRs (71% vs. 61% for hospitals, $p < 0.001$, and 70% vs. 60% for nursing homes, $p < 0.001$).

A full report will be sent with the 2008-09 survey in October.

–Full-Time Position Available–

Edgerton Hospital

313 Stoughton Road
Edgerton WI 53534

Full-time position with responsibilities
for infection prevention and quality.
Day-time hours

Contact Susan Alwin-Popp, Director of Quality,
Edgerton Hospital and Health Services, 608-884-1635.

salwinpopp@edgertonhospital.com

“Excellence is our standard”

Quinolone Resistance Found in Minn. Isolates of Meningococcus

On February 8, 2008, the Minnesota Health Department (MHD) issued a health alert to clinicians that *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B isolates from three patients (one from North Dakota and two from western Minnesota) were quinolone resistant (ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin and nalidixic acid). These were the first reports of quinolone resistance in *N. meningitidis* in North America. Accordingly, the MHD advised that ciprofloxacin or other quinolone antibiotics not be prescribed as chemoprophylaxis to contacts of patients with meningococcal disease from northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota until further notice. An additional case has been identified in California. Details on this situation have recently been published in the MMWR at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5707a2.htm>.

In response, the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) tested all banked *N. meningitidis* isolates from 2006 to date that

were collected through the Invasive Bacteria Laboratory Surveillance Program (IBLS). All isolates were found to be susceptible to ciprofloxacin. Based on these results and because the Minnesota recommendations apply only to the northwestern part of that state, the Bureau of Communicable Diseases does NOT recommend altering prophylactic prescribing practices at this time. Providers can continue to use ciprofloxacin for the prophylaxis of adult contacts of patients with meningococcal disease.

The Bureau and WSLH are currently part of the CDC "MeningNet" enhanced surveillance for *N. meningitidis* and will continue to test for potential resistance on all *N. meningitidis* isolates submitted statewide.

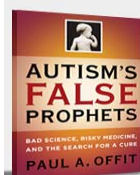
Please address any questions on this matter to Susann Ahrabi-Fard (608/261-6955) or Jim Kazmierczak (608/266-2154) in the Bureau of Communicable Diseases.

IC Resources

The CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis has released "Recommendations for Identification and Public Health Management of Persons with Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection" which can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5708.pdf>

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and APIC recently published, "SHEA/APIC Guideline: Infection Prevention and Control in the Long-term Care Facility." This guideline is available at www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PracticeGuidance/APIC-SHEA_Guideline.pdf

Paul A. Offit, MD, chief of Infectious Diseases and Director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, has authored a new book, "Autism's False Prophets," which separates fact from fiction and exposes the "bad" science and risky medicine that misleads the public. <http://cup.columbia.edu/book/978-0-231-14636-4/autisms-false-prophets>



Save the Date

Assisted Living Association 9th Annual Caregiver Conference

Thursday, October 16
Plaza Hotel and Suites
Wausau

www.plazawausau.com

Contact Bonnie Cherwinka at bblazel@g2a.net

Wisconsin Student Nurses Association Annual Convention

Thursday-Friday, October 16-18
Plaza Hotel and Suites
Eau Claire

Go to wisconsinnurses.org to register

APIC *Clostridium difficile*: A Call to Action Conference

Monday-Tuesday, November 10-11
Hilton Walt Disney World
Orlando, Florida

To register go to <http://www.apic.org/>
Early registration deadline: October 10
Late registration deadline: November 4

—Full-Time Position Available—

Franciscan Skemp Healthcare

700 West Avenue South
La Crosse, WI 54601

Franciscan Skemp Healthcare is seeking to add a full time infection control staff person to plan and direct activities related to infection control, including development of infection control standards of practice, coordination of surveillance activities, and staff education.

The successful candidate will have a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, Microbiology, or be licensed as a Medical Technologist, have or be eligible to obtain certification in infection control, and current or recent experience and demonstrated expertise in infection control and epidemiological principles.

Interested persons may apply online at: <http://www.mayohealthsystem.org/mhs/live/employment/newsearch.cfm?pp=employment/newsearch.cfm&orgid=FSH&nav2=Allied>

Living with Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines: Finding the Balance in Long Term Care

Program Description: Northeastern Wisconsin (NEW) APIC invites you to take part in a one day seminar that will meet the following objectives:

- Discuss the applicability of the CDC Isolation Guideline (2006-7) to the long term care setting
- Discuss the new SHEA/APIC long term care infection control guidelines (2008)
- Successfully provide infection prevention and control in a long term care facility while maintaining a home like environment
- Adhere to CMS infection control regulations with in a social model of care

Presenters

Dr. Philip Smith – is from Omaha, Nebraska. He received a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin and attended medical school at University of Chicago. Dr. Smith completed his training at the University of Iowa and received a fellowship in Infectious Diseases. He currently is a Professional at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He has received several honors including being awarded with The Robert D. Sparks Award for Achievement in Public Health and Prevention Medicine.

Peggy Luebbert, MS, MT (ASCP), CIC, CHSP – received her education at the College of St. Mary in Omaha, Neb. She received a Masters of Science in Pathology with an emphasis on Adult Education from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Peggy was an infection control practitioner for Merrick Manor in Fremont, Neb. for 12 years. Merrick Manor is a 300-bed long-term care and skilled nursing facility. She is a consultant in infection control, specializing in healthcare interventions in safety and infection prevention. Her clients include hospitals, ambulatory care, long term care, LTAC's, public health and non healthcare related organizations. Peggy is an active member locally and nationally in APIC and several other organizations.

Friday, November 7, 2008
10:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.
Park View Health Center
725 Butler Avenue
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901
920-237-6300

Sponsored & Financed by:



<i>Agenda</i>	<i>Time</i>
Registration & Continental Breakfast	9:30 A.M.
Welcome	9:50 A.M.
Dr. Philip Smith – <i>Long Term Care Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines: Application of Nursing Home and Hospital Guidelines in this setting</i>	10:00 A.M.– 11:45 A.M.
Lunch - Buffet	11:45 A. M. – 12:30 P.M.
Peggy Luebbert, RN – <i>Home Alone? Social Living with an MDRO in a Long Term Care Setting</i>	12:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. Break 2:00 P. M.
<i>Wrap Up & Evaluation</i>	3: 30 P.M.

Directions:

Take the US-41 to the 124 exit north of Oshkosh, WI Follow WI 76S to County Road Y, turn left / East on CR-Y Turn right onto Butler Avenue to the Parkview Health Center (new building).

Use entrance on East side of building

Who Should Attend? Healthcare workers responsible for infection prevention/control in long-term care, skilled nursing facilities or CBRF.

Registration

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment

Donation of \$10 per person
Donations received will be matched by NEW APIC and given to the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Association.

Please make check payable to NEW APIC Chapter
Mail to:

NEW APIC
PO Box 11566
Green Bay WI 54307-11566

For Questions Contact:
Miki Gould
Phone: 920-969-5374
E-mail: mgould@chw.org

Cancellations: Cancellations need to be made in writing and submitted by November 1, 2008 for a full refund.

Seating limited to the first 100 registrants.