

Epi Monthly

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

January 2020 Vol 21, Issue 1

Public Health LOOK OUT!

February is Black History Month. Many African Americans have made significant contributions to disciplines in the United States, including public health. The following are examples of a few:

- Dr. James Durham, who was born into slavery, became the first African American doctor in the United States. He saved more yellow fever victims than any other physician during an epidemic in New Orleans in 1789 (<https://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/blackhistorymonth/chronology>).
- Henrietta Lacks' cervical cancer cells were taken in 1951 and used to create a cell line called HeLa (<https://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/blackhistorymonth/chronology>). The cells were part of many scientific advances including testing the live polio vaccine and linking human papillomavirus and cervical cancer (<https://www.technologynetworks.com/cell-science/lists/5-contributions-hela-cells-have-made-to-science-305036>).
- In 1995, Dr. Helene Gayle became the first female and first African American Director of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/blackhistorymonth/chronology>).

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Human Trafficking– Risks and Signs

By: Vanessa Villamil

Background:

Human trafficking is a crime that involves using force, fraud, or coercion often through manipulation, to compel a person into labor or commercial sex. Additionally, anyone engaging in commercial sex under the age of 18 is considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion.¹ Worldwide it is believed that there are more cases of labor trafficking than sex trafficking. Labor trafficking takes place in a wide range of industries including but not limited to restaurants, cleaning services, construction, and agriculture. It involves forcing individuals to work in unacceptable conditions often for little or no pay. Individuals are not always trafficked across borders, they are often trafficked in their hometowns or by persons they know.²

Who is at Risk?

Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking. However, there are some individuals whose circumstances may make them more vulnerable to human trafficking, including:

- Individuals that have experienced childhood abuse
- Runaway and homeless youth
- Children in foster care and the juvenile justice system
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) individuals
- Migrant workers
- Undocumented immigrants
- Individuals with low incomes
- Individuals with a history of substance abuse³

What are the Signs?

There are a wide range of indicators for human trafficking. Being aware of these indicators can help identify victims and link them to resources. These may include an individual that:

- Is unpaid or paid very little
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Is recruited to work through false information regarding the nature or conditions of the work
- Is not given proper safety equipment
- Exhibits poor mental health or abnormal behavior
- Shows signs of substance abuse
- Is unable to clarify where they live
- Shares scripted stories⁴

In Miami-Dade County and Florida:

Assessing how widespread human trafficking is in a community can be challenging. One vital source of human trafficking data comes from the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), where reports of human trafficking are received through phone calls, texts, webchats, webforms, and e-mails. In 2018 the NHTH received 1,885 contacts and reported 767 cases of human trafficking in Florida, making it the third highest reporter of human trafficking in the nation.⁵ Most of the cases reported to the hotline in Florida were considered sex trafficking, were females, and were adults.⁶ Although, NHTH provides one of the most extensive data sets on human trafficking in the United States, it is not comprehensive and does not capture the full scope of the issue. One limitation of this data is that it is received passively through self-reports, or through reports from concerned individuals. The reports often have incomplete demographic information and do not include a health history.⁶

In October 2018 new ICD-10 codes for human trafficking were created. These codes allow for documentation of cases of labor and sex trafficking in patients that visit medical facilities for treatment and help make the distinction between human trafficking and other types of abuse, a distinction that was not previously made.⁷ The implementation of these codes will lead to improved tracking of human trafficking in individuals that seek care in our communities.

In its first full year of ICD-10 implementation (2019), provisional data for Miami-Dade did not show a significant number of human trafficking cases identified through Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations. The low number of identified cases may indicate a lack of full implementation of the ICD-10 codes, low victim emergency department and hospital utilization, or low identification of victims by healthcare providers. Future analysis of this data at a point in time when the dataset is more robust will be necessary to better understand these issues.

Recommendations:

Super Bowl LIV will be held at the Hard Rock Stadium on February 2nd, 2020. As Miami prepares for a high influx of tourism, public health officials are preparing for the various ways the community’s health may be affected. It is important that health care and public health professionals who may be in contact with populations at a higher risk be alert to the signs of human trafficking. For more information on signs of trafficking, as well as to find resources please visit: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs>



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Mass Gatherings and Public Health

By: Evelyn Garcia

Background:

The World Health Organization (WHO) describes mass gatherings as “planned or spontaneous events where the number of people attending could strain the planning and response resources of the community or country hosting the event.”¹ Mass gatherings, supplemented by globalization and travel, provide the opportunity for a complex network of interconnections between individuals from all over the world. The uniqueness of these events is matched by the particularity of the health risks faced, such as increased likelihood for transmission of infectious diseases and increased risk for injuries associated with crowding and poor sanitation.

Health Risks:

Travelers attending mass gatherings could be carriers of disease. These gatherings allow for close contact with a large number of individuals, which can allow pathogens to be easily transmitted, setting the foundation for the rapid spread of infection. Attendees can then become carriers of communicable diseases and propagate them to various geographical localities. In the past, outbreaks of influenza, measles, and foodborne diseases have been associated with mass gatherings.² An example of this was the influenza outbreak associated with the World Youth Day 2008 event in Sydney, Australia.³

Airborne diseases are of special concern because airborne-transmitted diseases can be highly contagious and at high risk of spread.⁴ Although some individuals may appear asymptomatic, the differing incubation periods of pathogens could make it difficult to identify carriers in order to prevent an outbreak.

Foodborne diseases are also of concern during mass gatherings due to the quick preparation of food in temporary facilities.² If proper food sanitation and preparation guidelines are not strictly followed, it can lead to the transmission of foodborne pathogens.⁴ Transmission of pathogens person to person through food consumption is also possible and concerning given the increasing prevalence of multi-drug resistant bacteria.⁵

Other health risks to consider for mass gathering events include the risk for heat-related illness and drug or alcohol-related illness and injury.⁷ Being aware of the potential risks during any mass gathering helps public health officials and healthcare providers allocate resources and target prevention efforts.

Recommendations:

With Superbowl LIV taking place soon in Miami-Dade, it is important to be informed about the necessary mass gathering precautions recommended for attendees as well as any medical conditions that could be exacerbated.² It is also crucial to have updated immunization records, especially with communicable diseases associated with mass gatherings such as influenza, hepatitis A and B, and measles.⁶ Attendees to these events must also inform themselves on proper respiratory etiquette and general hygiene guidelines.

For mitigating health risks, CDC guidelines recommend:²

- Identifying requirements for attending the event such as necessary vaccinations.
- Identifying recommendations suggested by host site or country, for attendees of the event.
- Informing attendees on proper sanitation and hand washing techniques, use of insect repellent, and food safety.
- Following up with CDC Traveler's Health website for further recommendations at www.cdc.gov/travel and for information regarding current disease outbreaks around the world.

For assessing health risks, CDC guidelines recommend:²

- Inquiring about traveler's scheduled activities beyond the event to be attended.
- Considering patients current health conditions and counseling on the importance of ensuring they have the adequate medical supplies needed.
- Ensuring patient has appropriate documentation of prescriptions.

Hand Hygiene Resources:

Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands.

When?

- After using the bathroom
- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

How?

Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.

Rinse hands well under clean, running water.

Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of germs and stay healthy.

LIFE IS BETTER WITH CLEAN HANDS

www.cdc.gov/handwashing

CDC

This material was developed by CDC. The Life Is Better with Clean Hands Campaign is made possible by a partnership between the CDC Foundation, GOUO, and Staples. HHS/CDC does not endorse commercial products, services, or companies. CS110027-A

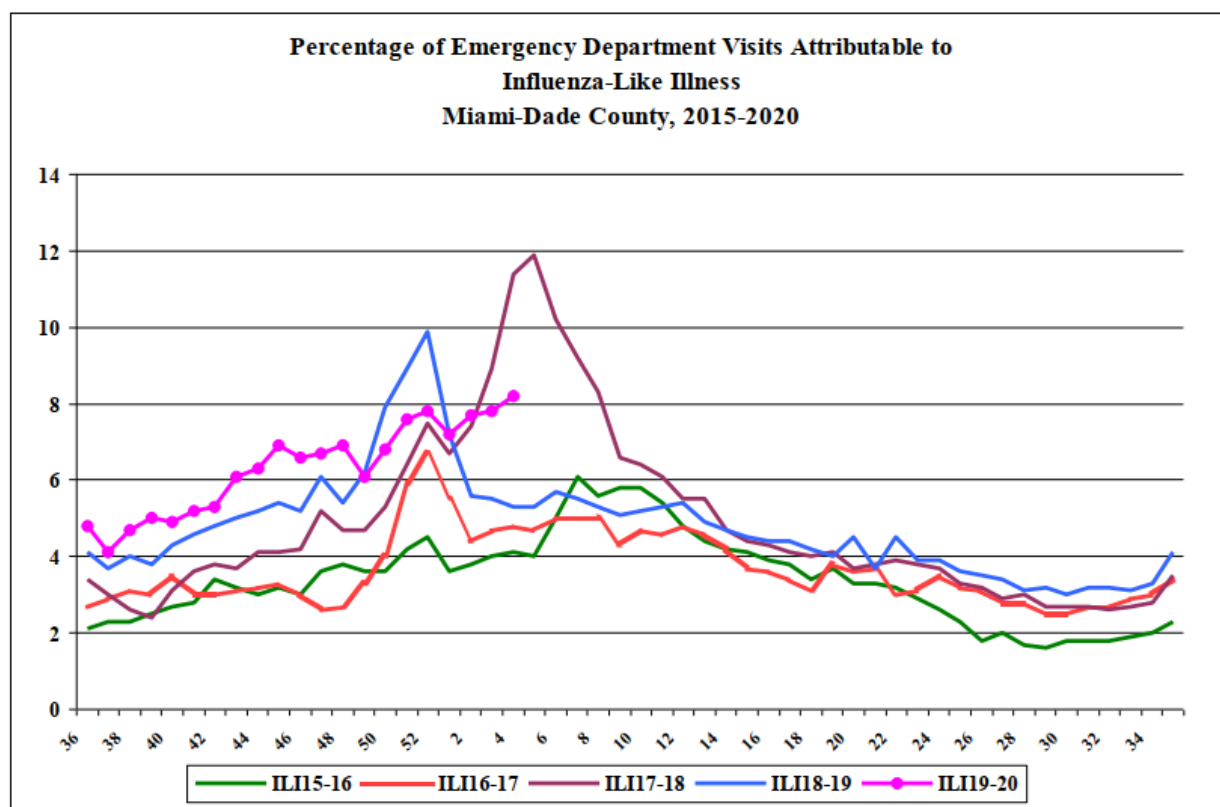
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Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Epidemiology, Disease Control and Immunization Services

Influenza Like Illness Surveillance Report

On a daily basis, all of Miami-Dade County's emergency department (ED) hospitals electronically transmit ED data to the Florida Department of Health. This data is then categorized into 11 distinct syndromes. The influenza-like illness (ILI) syndrome consists of fever with either cough or sore throat. It can also include a chief complaint of "flu" or "ILI". This season's 2019-2020 data is compared to the previous 4 influenza seasons (2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019).



Across all ages, there were 36,412 ED visits; among them 2,987 (8.2%) were ILI. During the same week last year, 5.3% of ED visits were ILI.

PARTICIPATE IN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER SURVEILLANCE

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County NEEDS Influenza Sentinel Providers!

Sentinel providers are key to the success of the Florida Department of Health's Influenza Surveillance System. Data reported by sentinel providers gives a picture of the influenza virus and ILI activity in the U.S. and Florida which can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care.

- Providers of any specialty, in any type of practice, are eligible to be sentinel providers.
- Most providers report that it takes **less than 30 minutes a week** to compile and report data on the total number of patients seen and the number of patients seen with influenza-like illness.
- Sentinel providers can submit specimens from a subset of patients to the state laboratory for virus isolation **free of charge**.

For more information, please contact
Stephanie Calle at 305-470-5660.



Miami-Dade County Monthly Report Select Reportable Disease/Conditions December 2019

Diseases/Conditions	2019 Current Month	2019 Year to Date	2018 Year to Date	2017 Year to Date
HIV/AIDS				
AIDS*	19	420	418	443
HIV	73	1327	1288	1332
STD				
Infectious Syphilis*	48	401	465	381
Chlamydia*	1283	15019	13376	12153
Gonorrhea*	478	4857	4245	3398
TB				
Tuberculosis**	12	118	125	100
Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services				
Epidemiology				
Campylobacteriosis	77	861	796	694
Chikungunya Fever	1	3	1	1
Ciguatera Poisoning	1	43	36	13
Cryptosporidiosis	8	76	45	43
Cyclosporiasis	5	31	3	5
Dengue Fever	21	236	45	9
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	12	157	176	36
Encephalitis, West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis, Acute	11	181	188	136
Influenza Novel Strain	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Pediatric Death	1	2	1	1
Legionellosis	2	52	64	42
Leptospirosis	0	0	1	0
Listeriosis	1	6	8	9
Lyme disease	2	5	7	13
Malaria	1	5	11	6
Meningitis (except aseptic)	2	12	11	11
Meningococcal Disease	0	3	0	6
Salmonella serotype Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	3	4	2
Salmonellosis	95	1036	901	804
Shigellosis	19	262	291	121
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Drug Resistant	3	21	16	27
Vibriosis	4	22	23	17
West Nile Fever	0	0	1	0
Zika Virus (non-congenital)	3	36	34	144
Immunization Preventable Diseases				
Measles	0	0	3	0
Mumps	1	61	12	10
Pertussis	2	36	21	37
Rubella	0	0	0	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	0
Varicella	9	161	89	62
Hepatitis				
Hepatitis A	6	42	18	128
Hepatitis B (Acute)	10	44	47	42
Healthy Homes				
Lead Poisoning	13	134	185	307

*Data is provisional at the county level and is subject to edit checks by state and federal agencies.

** Data on tuberculosis are provisional at the county level.

Data on EDC-IS includes Confirmed and Probable cases.

Did You Know?



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is currently monitoring an outbreak of a 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. It is recommended that healthcare providers obtain a detailed travel history for all patients being evaluated in the United States for fever and acute respiratory illness. For more information and guidance please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>.

Public Health Observances

- February is also [National Cancer Prevention Month](#). More than 40 percent of all cancers diagnosed and nearly half of all deaths from cancers in the United States can be attributed to preventable causes. Steps can be taken to reduce cancer risk such as not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, protecting your skin from the sun, and getting vaccinated against viruses that cause certain cancers.
- February 7 is [National Wear Red Day](#). Observed each year on the first Friday in February, National Wear Red Day brings greater attention to heart disease as the leading cause of death for Americans.
- February 23-29 is [National Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). The National Eating Disorders Association aims to improve public understanding of eating disorders and their causes, dangers, and treatments and to empower everyone to reduce risk factors and join prevention efforts.

To report diseases and for information, call EDC-IS at:

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	305-470-6877
Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance	305-470-5660
Hepatitis Program	305-470-5536
HIV/AIDS Program	305-470-6999
Immunization Services	305-470-5660
STD Program	305-575-5430
Tuberculosis Program	305-575-5415
Appointment Line	786-845-0550

What's New at DOH Miami-Dade

On January 9th, 2020 DOH-Miami-Dade team members attended the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of Miami Rescue Mission's Doral Clinic. This clinic will provide free medical services to low income citizens in the community.

About the Epi Monthly Report

The Epi Monthly Report is a publication of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County: Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services. The publication serves a primary audience of physicians, nurses, and public health professionals. Articles published in the Epi Monthly Report may focus on quantitative research and analysis, program updates, field investigations, or provider education. For more information or to submit an article, please contact Vanessa Villamil at 305-470-5643 or vanessa.villamil@flhealth.gov.



Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and You



What is 2019 novel coronavirus?

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get 2019-nCoV?

This 2019-nCoV virus does seem to be able to spread from person-to-person although it's not clear how easily this happens. Person-to-person spread in the United States has not yet been detected, but it's likely to occur to some extent. At this time this virus is not spreading in the United States so the likelihood of someone in the U.S. getting sick with this virus is very low. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in Wuhan or people who have traveled to Wuhan and less so, other parts of China. CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

Have there been cases of 2019-nCoV in the U.S.?

Yes. The first infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States is available on CDC's webpage: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html

How does 2019-nCoV spread?

The exact way the virus is spread is not fully known. With similar coronaviruses (MERS and SARS) person-to-person spread is thought to have happened mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other viruses that cause respiratory illness spread. There also may be some spread when a person touches a surface or object that has virus on it and then touches his or her own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. Spread of SARS and MERS between people has generally occurred between close contacts. There is much more to learn about 2019-nCoV and investigations are ongoing.

What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

Patients with 2019-nCoV have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

How can I help protect myself?

- This virus is not spreading in the United States right now, but the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should get medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against 2019-nCoV. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for 2019-nCoV. People with 2019-nCoV can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

www.cdc.gov/nCoV

What to do if you are sick with 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)



If you are sick with 2019-nCoV follow the steps below to help prevent 2019-nCoV from spreading to people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

You should not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transportation or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home

As much as possible, you should stay in a different room from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

Before your medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, 2019-nCoV infection. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are in the same room with other people and when you visit a healthcare provider. If you cannot wear a facemask, the people who live with you should wear one while they are in the same room with you.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or you can cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can, and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Wash your hands

Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. You can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available and if your hands are not visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items with other people in your home. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

Monitor your symptoms

Get medical care quickly if your illness is getting worse (for example if you are having trouble breathing). Call the healthcare provider ahead of time and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, 2019-nCoV infection. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected.

www.cdc.gov/nCoV