

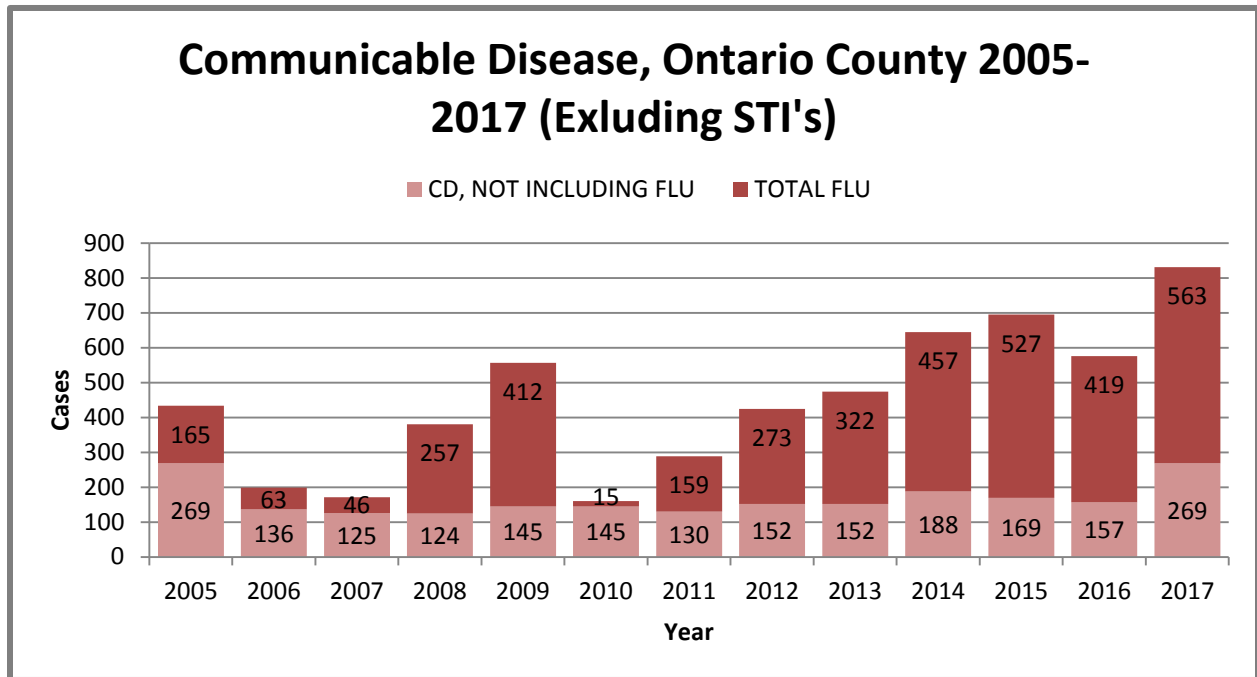
Communicable Disease and Sexually Transmitted Infections

Provider Update, 2018

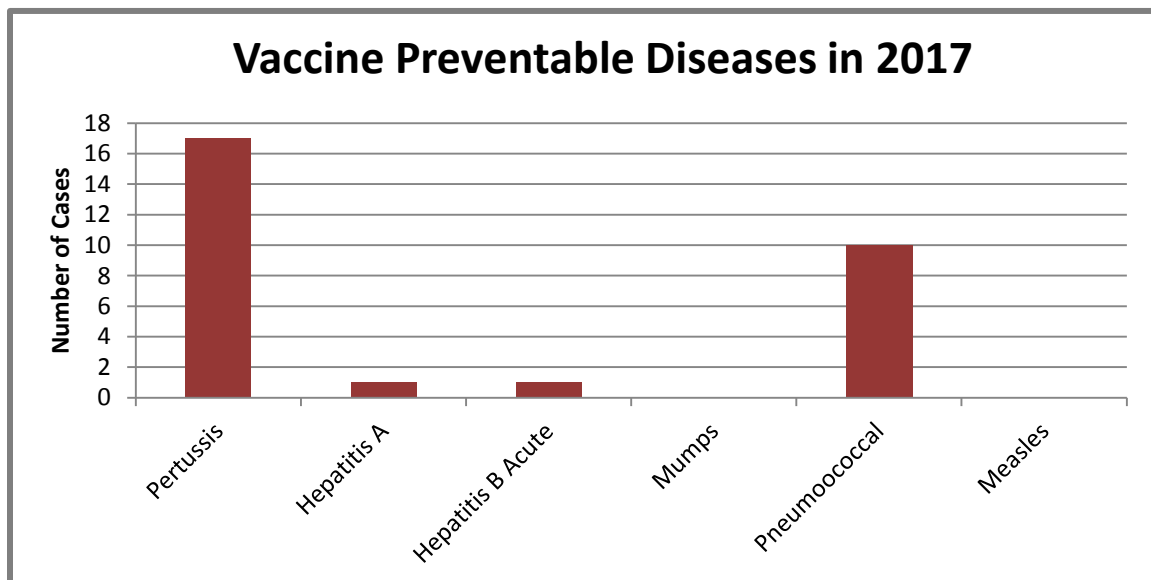
Kristen Bloom, BSN

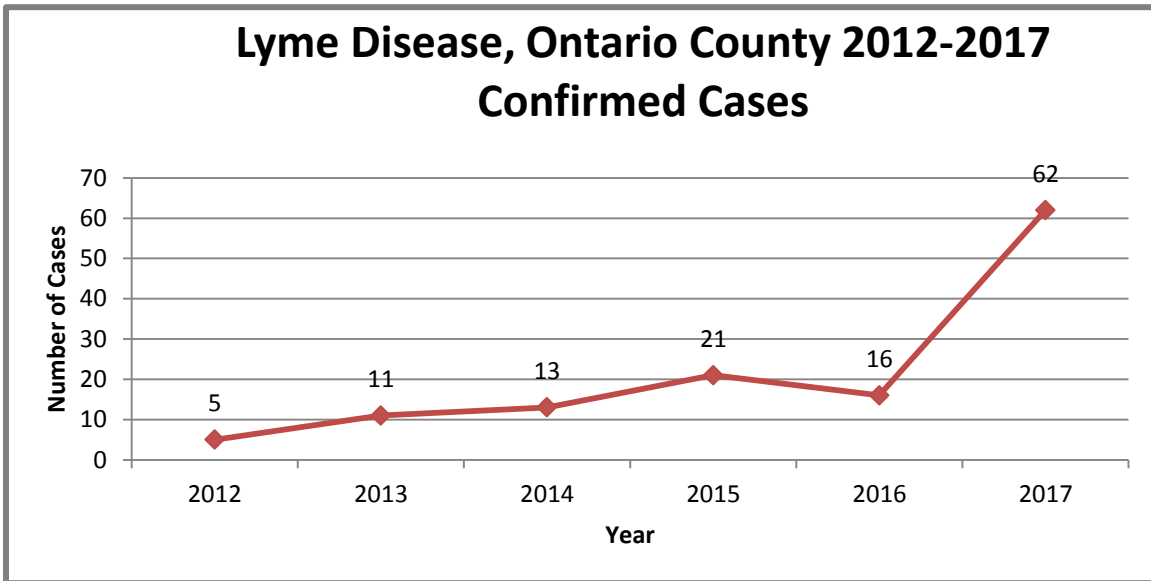
10/12/2018

Communicable Disease in Ontario County



New York Public Health Law requires healthcare providers and laboratorians report certain diseases to the local health department (LHD). A current list of reportable diseases is included with this update. Investigations by the LHD vary by disease and may include communication with the medical provider, hospital and/or the affected individual. In some cases, the LHD tries to identify the source of infection and prevent additional cases. An increase in disease reports involving the same pathogen may indicate an outbreak and require additional public health actions. Education is an important part of every investigation.



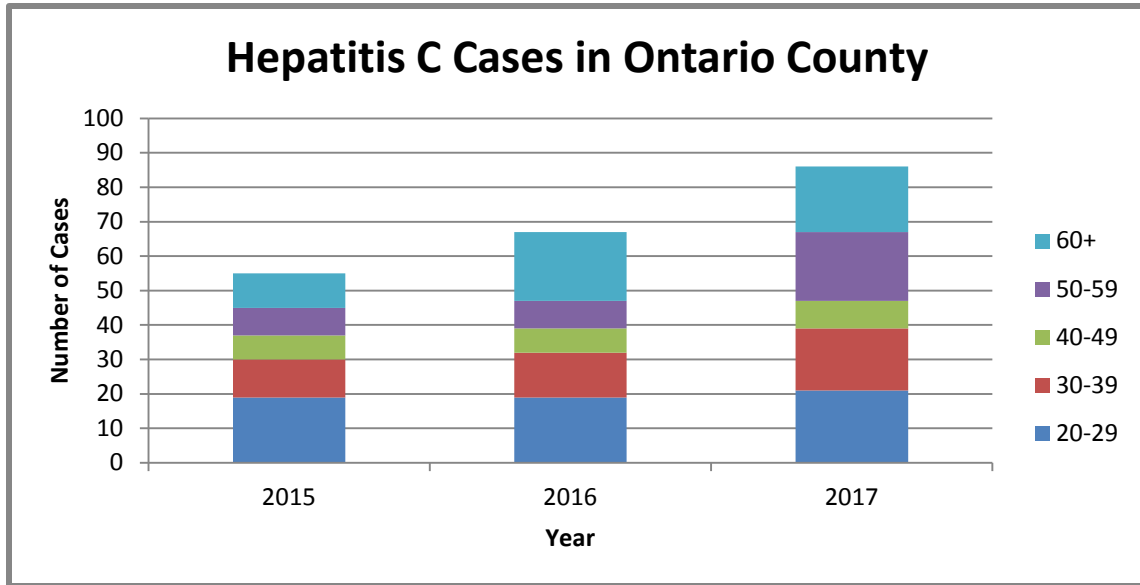


The number of LD cases has increased in the last five years as the bacterium that causes it (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) has become more prevalent in the blacklegged tick (deer tick) populations across Western New York. In 2017, Ontario County saw the highest increase to date (288%).

Diagnosis by Rash

Because LD is endemic in New York State, when a patient presents with an erythema migrans (EM) rash (bullseye, target) no lab testing is needed to confirm infection. **Patients can be diagnosed and treated based on the EM rash alone.** It is very important for medical providers to alert the local health department in the patient's county of residence when LD is diagnosed by EM rash. In Ontario County, this can be done by phone (585-396-4343) or by completing the Lyme disease intake form included in this packet and faxing it to 585-396-4551. For more information regarding the diagnosis treatment and reporting of Lyme disease, please see the CDC website link: <https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/healthcare/index.html>

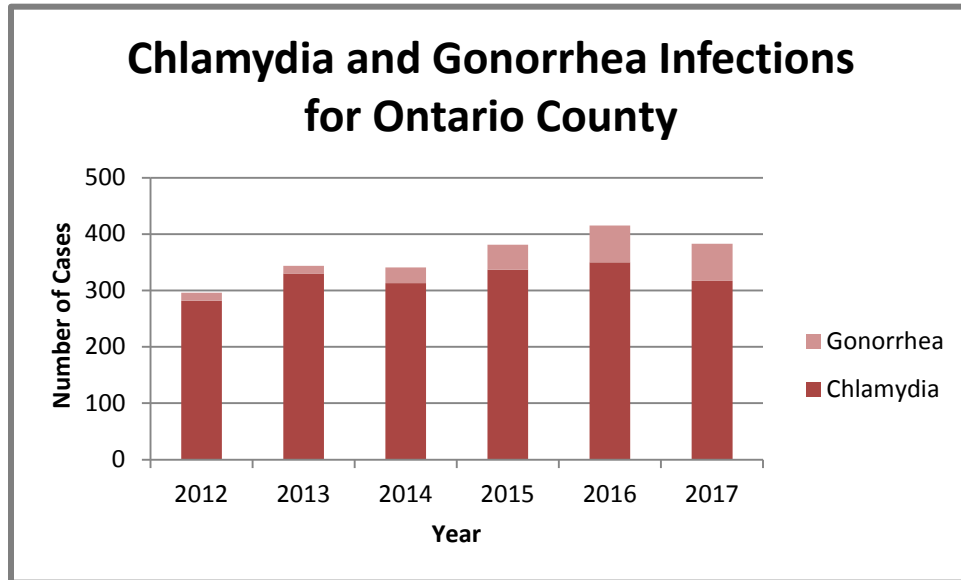
Because LD is a serious illness and can be difficult to diagnose and treat promptly, preventing tick exposure is very important. Educate patients about the appropriate use of insect repellents and encourage them to check for ticks frequently. They should seek medical care for unusual illnesses, fevers and rashes. Healthcare providers should consider LD a potential diagnosis even when the presence of a tick cannot be confirmed.



Current testing recommendations target the testing of baby boomers for Hepatitis C. This graph shows that a large portion of Hepatitis C cases in Ontario County occur between the ages of 20-39. With the emergence of the opioid epidemic the younger generation is acquiring Hepatitis C infections more often and should be considered for screening.

NOTE: A small percentage of individuals clear the hepatitis C virus without treatment, but remain antibody positive. It is impossible to confirm hepatitis C infection status without HCV RNA testing. **Appropriate testing for hepatitis C includes screening for anti-HCV (antibody to hepatitis C virus) with reflex to the HCV RNA test (aka, NAAT) if positive. When ordered this way the HCV RNA will automatically be run for all positive anti-HCV results without requiring another provider order or blood draw from the patient.**

Sexually Transmitted Infections in Ontario County



Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis are reportable to the local health department. Rates continue to rise. When STI's are reported to the health department, investigation staff communicates with the medical provider to confirm treatment. The NYSDOH assists with partner notification for gonorrhea and syphilis and when requested by the physician, chlamydia. Public Health must provide STI services for those with financial and other barriers. The health department contracts with Planned Parenthood and Finger Lakes Community Health to provide these services.

Recommended Treatment for Chlamydia (CDC)

Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose OR Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice a day for 7 days

For complete treatment guidelines, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/chlamydia.htm>.

Recommended Treatment for Gonorrhea (CDC)

Uncomplicated Gonococcal Infections of the Cervix, Urethra and Rectum

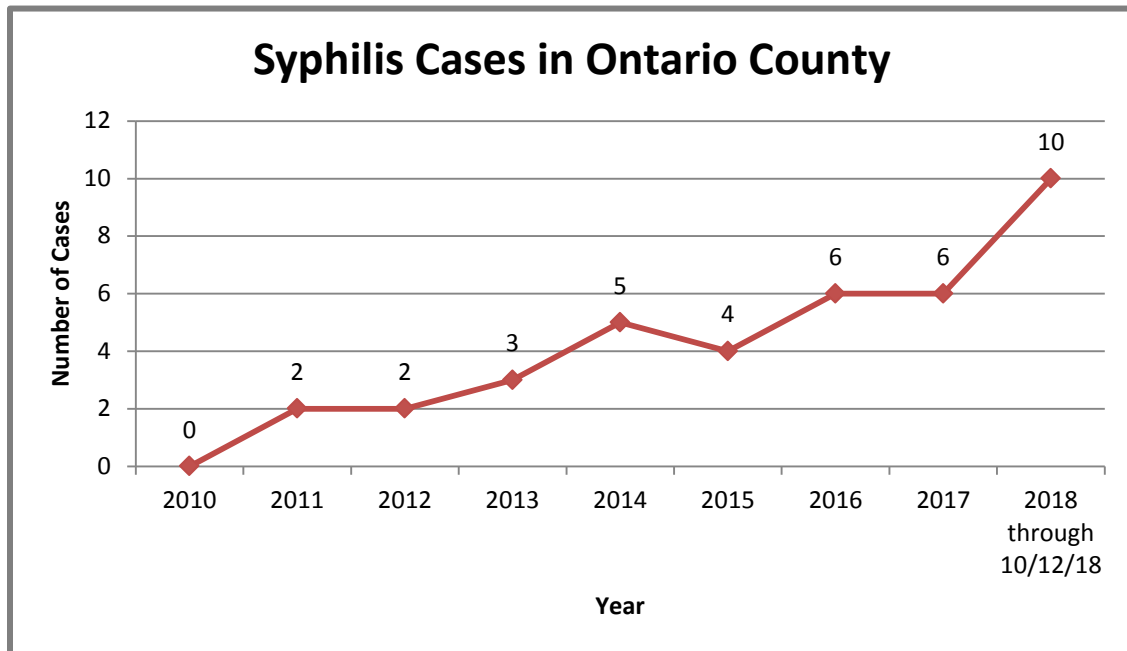
Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose AND Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose.

For complete treatment guidelines, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/gonorrhea.htm>.

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for Chlamydial Infections

In New York State, healthcare providers are encouraged to provide treatment of sexual partners via expedited partner therapy (EPT). This can be accomplished by dispensing treatment directly or by providing a prescription. Demographic information for sexual partner(s) can be provided if available, but it is not required. In NY State, EPT is exempt from electronic prescribing laws. Pharmacists in Ontario County are aware EPT is legal and recommended by the NYSDOH. For more information contact Ontario County Public Health or go to

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/3849/index.htm>.



Congenital Syphilis

There has been a large increase in congenital syphilis cases in New York State. Please see the attached health advisory from NYSDOH regarding congenital syphilis. Due to the large increase in syphilis cases in Ontario County and NYS screening of pregnant women in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy in addition to the 1st trimester screening is recommended. Sexual health screening should be a routine part of every prenatal visit regardless of the outcome of the first syphilis test.

Recommendations

Have a low threshold of suspicion for syphilis infection and report suspected cases to the local health department. Notify patients the NYSDOH will be calling to assist with partner notification.

Lab Testing

Syphilis occurs in stages and can be difficult to diagnose. Symptoms often resemble other conditions. Testing should include **all** of the following,

- 1. RPR (rapid plasma regain)**
- 2. TPPA (Treponema pallidum particle agglutination assay), and**
- 3. T pallidum IgG**

Women who are pregnant and at risk for syphilis should be tested twice during pregnancy.

Treatment of syphilis varies depending on stage.

For diagnostic and treatment information, see the CDC's 2015 STD guidelines at,

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/syphilis.htm>

HIV

Attached is a Health Alert regarding increased number of HIV and STI Diagnoses in Orange County. Please note this trend is also happening in Ontario County. Ontario County has seen an increase in the number of new HIV diagnoses as well as all forms of STIs. Please screen all individuals according to screening recommendations which can be found at the link below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/screening-recommendations.htm>

In 2017 the mandatory offer of HIV testing requirement changed. New York State HIV Clinical Guidelines and Public Health Law establish the requirement that voluntary HIV testing be offered at least once as a routine part of health care to all patients from the age of 13 and up. Previously the upper limit was 64, which has now been removed.

Additional information can be found at the NYDOH website, link below:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/providers/testing/index.htm#publichealthlaw>

Patient's seeking PrEP (pre exposure prophylaxis) can be referred to Trillium Health, Planned Parenthood and Finger Lakes Community Health:

Trillium Health Geneva
30 Elm Street
Geneva, NY 14456
315-781-6303
800-422-0282

Planned Parenthood
15 Lafayette Ave
Canandaigua, NY 14424
866-600-6886

Finger Lakes Community
Health
601 Washington St
Geneva, NY 14456
315-781-8448

Trillium Health Rochester
259 Monroe Ave
Rochester, NY 14607
585-545-7200
1-800-266-9292