



Communicable Diseases Quarterly Report

Quarter 1: January- March 31, 2021

Department of Public Health

	2020 Cases		2021 Cases	
	QTR 1	YTD	QTR 1	YTD
Sexually Transmitted Diseases				
AIDS¹	16	16	11	11
Chlamydia	1270	1270	1446	1446
Gonococcal Infection	533	533	663	663
HIV¹	38	38	28	28
Syphilis-Total	276	276	316	316

Vaccine Preventable Diseases				
Hepatitis A	<10	<10	<10	<10
Hepatitis B (Acute)	<10	<10	<10	<10
Hepatitis B (Chronic)	37	37	38	38
Meningococcal disease	0	0	0	0
Mumps	16	16	0	0
Pertussis	<10	<10	0	<10

Food Borne Diseases				
Campylobacteriosis	44	44	47	47
Shiga Toxigenic E. Coli	14	14	<10	<10
Giardia	<10	<10	<10	<10
Salmonellosis	20	20	16	16
Shigellosis	<10	<10	11	11

Vector Borne & Zoonotic Diseases				
Lyme Disease	<10	<10	0	<10
Malaria	0	0	0	0
West Nile Virus	<10	<10	0	0
Zika Virus	0	0	0	0

Selected Communicable Diseases				
Coccidioidomycosis	161	161	106	106
Hepatitis C (Chronic)	163	163	136	136
Legionellosis	<10	<10	<10	<10
Meningitis	32	32	20	20
Tuberculosis	14	14	13	13

Definitions:

- **Communicable disease** – a disease which can be transmitted directly or indirectly by a living organism or by a non-living object or substance. Examples include: from an infected person to another person who is susceptible; from an object (sheets, clothing, telephone handset, drinking glass) that may harbor germs to a susceptible person.
- **Reportable disease** – in compliance with federal and state health code, certain diseases must be reported when a confirmed or suspect diagnosis is made on a secured and standardized form. [National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System | CDC](#) for more information.
- ¹ Reporting for HIV and AIDS is delayed and the numbers presented are likely underreported.

Spotlight: Valley Fever

Coccidioidomycosis also known as Cocci or Valley Fever is a soil fungus that causes disease in humans and some animals. In the United States, it is found in the Southwest region and Central Washington State. People are exposed to Valley Fever when they inhale airborne fungal spores into their lungs. It cannot be spread from the lungs of an infected person to a healthy individual.

Anyone who lives or travels to areas where Valley Fever is endemic risks getting a Valley Fever infection. Research shows adults over age 60, people with weakened immune systems, pregnant women, diabetics and people who are Black or Filipino have the highest risk of infection.

The fungus typically infects the lungs, but can also spread to other areas of the body. Most people who breathe in Valley Fever spores do not get sick, and those who become ill usually get better on their own. About 5-10% of people who get sick with Valley Fever develop a severe infection. Valley Fever symptoms are similar to influenza and can include: fatigue, cough, fever, breathlessness, headache, night sweats, muscle/joint pain and rash.

In 2019, there were 18,407 cases of Valley Fever reported in the United States and 49% of these cases came from California. In the same year, Fresno County reported 621 cases of Valley Fever representing 6.9% of the 9004 cases reported in California.

Currently there is no vaccine for Valley Fever and the best way to avoid becoming ill is by limiting exposure. People who visit or live in areas where Valley Fever is endemic should avoid spending time outside when it is dusty or windy. People should also limit activities that involve close contact with dirt or dust such as digging or gardening. If working with soil is necessary, an N95 respirator should be worn to protect against the inhalation of fungal spores.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021). Valley Fever. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/coccidioidomycosis/index.html>
 California Department of Public Health (2021). Valley Fever. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Coccidioidomycosis.aspx>

Reportable Diseases in Fresno County:

A selection of Reportable Diseases appears in this Quarterly Report. Reportable disease information is compiled by number of cases and includes confirmed, probable and suspect classifications.

In the tables to the left, numbers of cases for each disease are listed for the current and previous year and corresponding quarter.

Helpful Links for Disease Rates

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov/datastatistics
 California Department of Public Health (CDPH): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov>
 Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH): <http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health>