

Alaska One Health Group

Quarterly Meeting

Monday May 19th, 2014,
3:00 – 5:00 PM
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
3900 Ambassador Drive, Third Floor
Center for Climate and Health, Meeting Room No. 311
Call: 1-877-446-3914
Participant Code: 651322.

Roll Call

Ali Hamade, DHSS Epidemiology	Bezaleel Gebru, DHSS Epidemiology
Alan Parkinson, CDC	Tom Hennessey, CDC
Bob Gerlach, ADEC	Rosemarie Lombardi, USDA APHIS VS
Lori Verbrugge, USFWS	Stacey Cooper, DHSS
Sandrene Deglin, DHSS	Khulan Bazarvaani, ANTHC
Mike Brubaker, ANTHC	Desirae Roehl, ANTHC
Oxcenia O'Domin, ANTHC	Jake Bell, ANTHC
Kimberlee Beckmen, ADFG	Amy Holman, NOAA
Karston Hueffer, UAF	Angela Matz, USFW
Caroline Van Hemert, USGS	Marty Brewer, ADEC EH
David Driscoll – UAA, ICPH	Louisa Castrodale, DHSS
Kim Striker – ADEC Food and Sanitation	Gay Sheffield, Marine Observer Agent

Update on Recent Observations and Events

- * Website for One Health Group – will include meeting presentations, agendas, notes, links to maps and articles shared by the group.
- * Google Maps - Posts about poor ice conditions, bears, water shortages, difficult whaling conditions, break up conditions, high pollen levels, and food /subsistence issues.
- * Amy Holman – Eastern Canada setting up ice conditions and observations.
- * Mike Brubaker – Wainwright, community wide water system failure, and cause is from thawing between their trenches pvc does not do well with breaks resulting in contamination. Rapid change can create dramatic sanitation problems.
- * Bob Gerlach - Increased surveillance this year for Avian Cholera this year. There was a health concern issue regarding thawing of birds or outbreaks in the birds.

Roundtable Update and Discussion

- * Tom H. – There are 2 known cases of MERS in the United States. There is evidence that one of contacts has developed antibodies. There hasn't been any connection with where it has originated from or the connection or spread between humans and animals.
- * Alan P – Coxiella study of the antibody levels in the Pribilof Islands. 600 people were tested for Coxiella resulting in 7% prevalence. The clinic and the community were very involved in the study. The community decided to address future concerns with awareness through the clinic.
- * Ali H. – Mercury -Fish consumption guidelines will hopefully be released within the month. Fukushima information- FDA will be testing some fish samples.
- * Louisa – There hasn't been any more questions or concerns about Toxoplasma in Beluga whales at DHSS. Mike B. – ANTHC did a LEO post and had webinar on topic.

Presentation - Dog Tick Invasion of Alaska - Implications for risks of tick-borne diseases Kimberlee Beckmen, AK Department of Fish and Game (see website for PDF)

- Increased number of human diseases every year from tick-borne illnesses nationally.
- Alaska 10 reported cases of Lyme Disease in 2012, no known tick connection.
- Tularemia in 2012. (Most transmitted by hare or muskrat)

- Moose Winter Tick – tough on Lower 80 Canada moose. Potential vector for Lyme and other diseases.
- Coxiella burnetii – Q-fever. Exists in Alaska. Question whether it will increase with increasing number of ticks.
- Hitchhiking ticks coming into AK from pet and human travelers.
- Climate may favor more ticks endemic in AK.
- Action: Increase public prevention and treatment. Veterinarians should dispense appropriate products (Advantix II best, Frontline plus as alternative). Be more aware.
- Tick collars are very poor for prevention.
- Ticks are sent to Kimberlee for identification. State Surveillance Program.
- No testing of ticks for pathogen is being done yet. UAF is exploring for at lab.
- Currently there are over 100 samples that have been received since 2011. Currently a lot more ticks.
- Most are collected off of dogs or people and then being sending into ADF&G. Karsten says UAF can do PCR for Francisella.

Pesticides have risk and benefit (B. Gerlach). We have not seen tick borne disease yet, but we need to increase surveillance.

Prevention for people is to strip clothes off and put in the dryer after hikes, then take a take a shower and inspect for ticks. Dryer will kill ticks on clothing.

New technologies are being developed which will allow analysis for a wide range of infectious diseases (Tom Hennessy).

Alaskans should tell their friends to have their dogs treated.

Media outreach has occurred in Alaska Dispatch, Fairbanks Daily News Miner.

Alaskans may want to consider treating their dogs for ticks.

It is difficult to find a tick on a dog until it is engorged.

Winter tick has been a disaster for moose in northern states in Alaska and Southern Canada.

If an infestation occurs, the strategy for Alaska will be culling, i.e. reducing the population of moose that are vulnerable to the disease.

Bill Samuel is the main person moose winter tick in Alberta. Would be a good presentation.

Hot Topics: H7N9, Avian cholera, fish health, rabies, tick borne illness, cryptosporidium, harmful algal blooms, vibrio, mercury, blood test strip method, Toxoplasma gondii, Fukushima, ice seal illness, and Q Fever.

Next meeting - Tuesday August 26, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Potential topics: Vibrio management, (WA, OR, BC), winter tick management (Alberta)