

## December 2014 – Nebraska Disease Summary Report

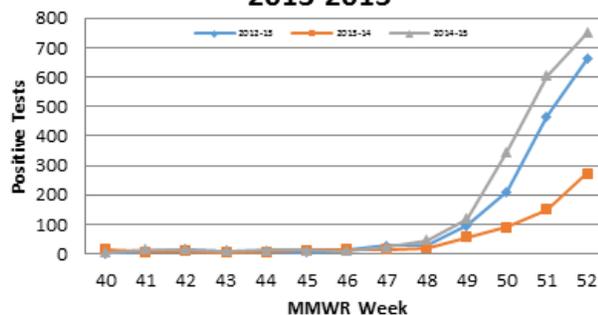
### Volume 1, Issue 1

There were a total of 1278 cases of reportable diseases in December 2014 (not including influenza\*), which is a 16.08% increase compared to November 2014, and an 8.12% increase when compared to December 2013. The most common reportable diseases this month were Chlamydia, Pertussis, Hepatitis C Virus Infection, Gonorrhea, and Animal Exposure (bite or non-bite); all of which account for 83.49% of the total number of diseases reported for December 2014.

### Influenza

Nebraska tracking systems for influenza indicate that the flu season began earlier and is more severe than previous years. The predominant circulating strain of influenza is an A-H3N2 strain which tends to cause more severe illness than influenza H1 or B strains. Our tracking systems show that influenza activity began a sharp increase mid-December and continued to increase through the end of the month. As of MMWR week 52 (week ending December 27) activity had not yet reached peak levels. Historical trends show that peak influenza activity usually occurs during January and February.

**Nebraska Laboratory Surveillance,  
Positive Influenza Tests, by year,  
2013-2015**



### December Trends

- Case counts and outbreaks for *Salmonella*, Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*, and norovirus have remained stable compared to last month and December of last year.
- There were 153 cases of Pertussis this month.
  - Pertussis case counts increased by 163.79% compared to last month and increased by 446.43% when compared to December of last year.

Case Counts and Outbreaks			
Disease or Condition	Dec-2014	Nov-2014	Dec-2013
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> infection cases	626	585	714
Pertussis cases	153	58	28
Hepatitis C Virus Infection, chronic or resolved, cases	119	82	89
Gonorrhea cases	118	135	115
Animal Exposure (bite or non-bite) cases	51	51	58
<i>Salmonella</i> cases	20	20	17
Shiga toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) cases	3	3	3
Norovirus outbreaks	3	1	1

\*Influenza is not included in the case counts because most cases are never tested or reported. Influenza activity is tracked through indicators of influenza and influenza-like illness.