

Clinical Laboratory Update

February 2020

www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab

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Sexually Transmitted Infections

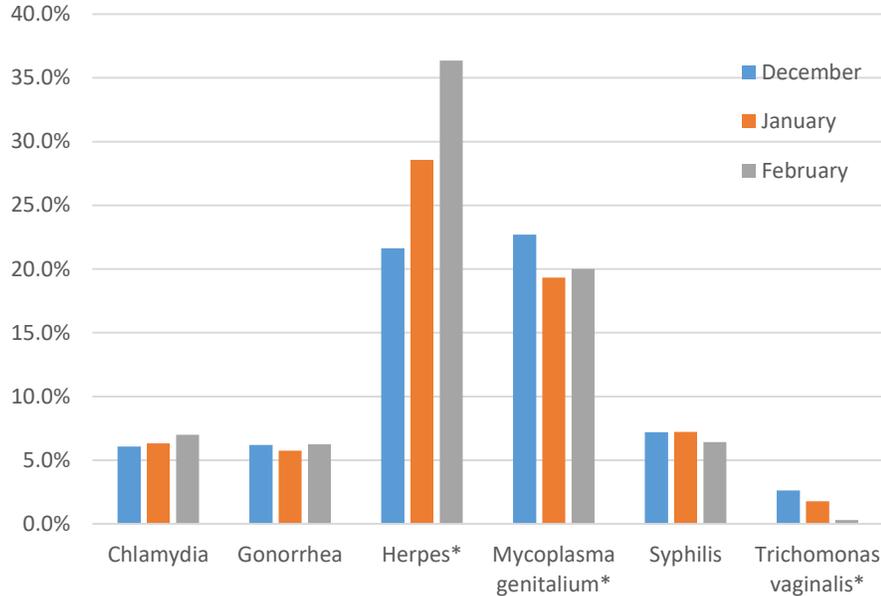


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

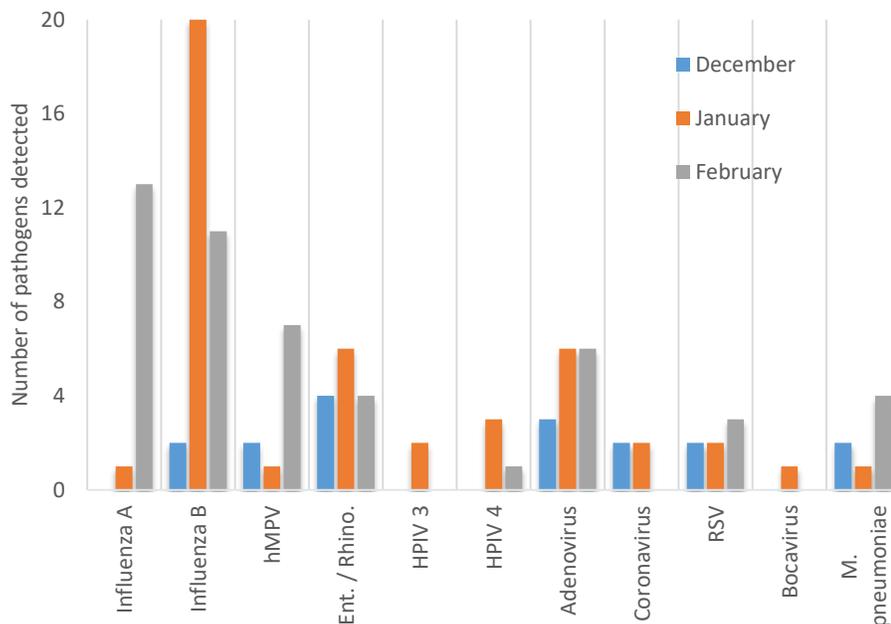


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

COVID-19 Testing Updates

Greetings!

MHD Laboratory (MHDL) has successfully completed the verification of CDC's 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) real-time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel under a FDA's EUA. The test is currently being offered by both MHDL and WSLH. The ability of MHDL and WSLH to test for 2019-nCoV will reduce the amount of time it takes for patients to receive results, should any local cases arise.

On March 4, the CDC [Criteria to Guide Evaluation of PUI for COVID-19](#) were expanded to allow for more flexibility. Decisions on patient testing should be based on the local epidemiology of COVID-19, as well as the clinical course of illness. In Wisconsin, we are in the midst of a busy respiratory season and nearing peak of the influenza season. While there may be COVID-19 suspect, clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness, including infections such as influenza.

COVID-19 testing requires approval by either the MHD (**SurvNet number: 414-286-3624**) or DHS (608-267-9003 during business or 608-258-0099 after hours).

Current information on 2019-nCoV is available at the following links:

- MHD: www.milwaukee.gov/Health/2019ncov.htm
- WI DHS: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Links to related reports:

[MHD SurvNet](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

[WI DHS Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report](#)

Connect with your health department:



New HIV Infections

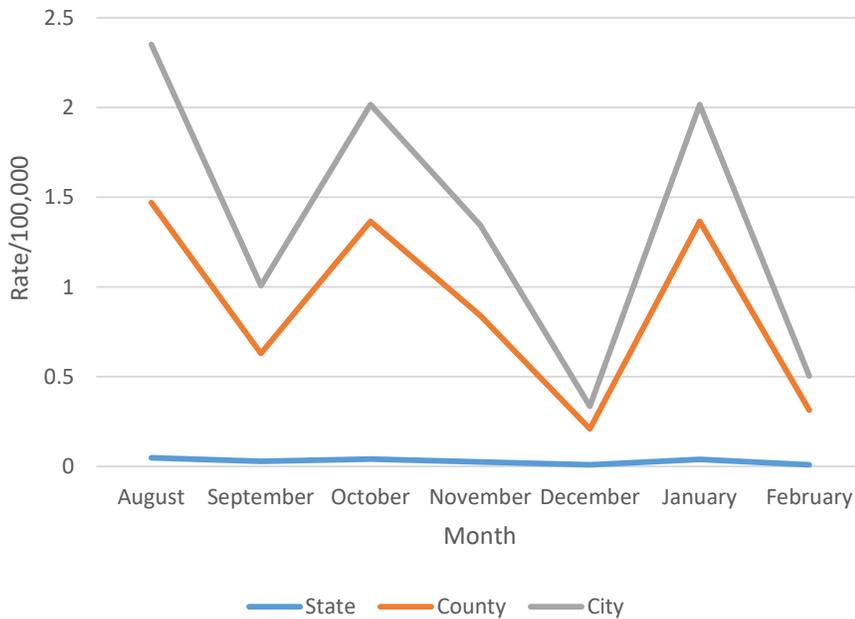


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in the state of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, and City of Milwaukee, using state- and county-level data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

For more statewide HIV data, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>.

Syphilis Surveillance

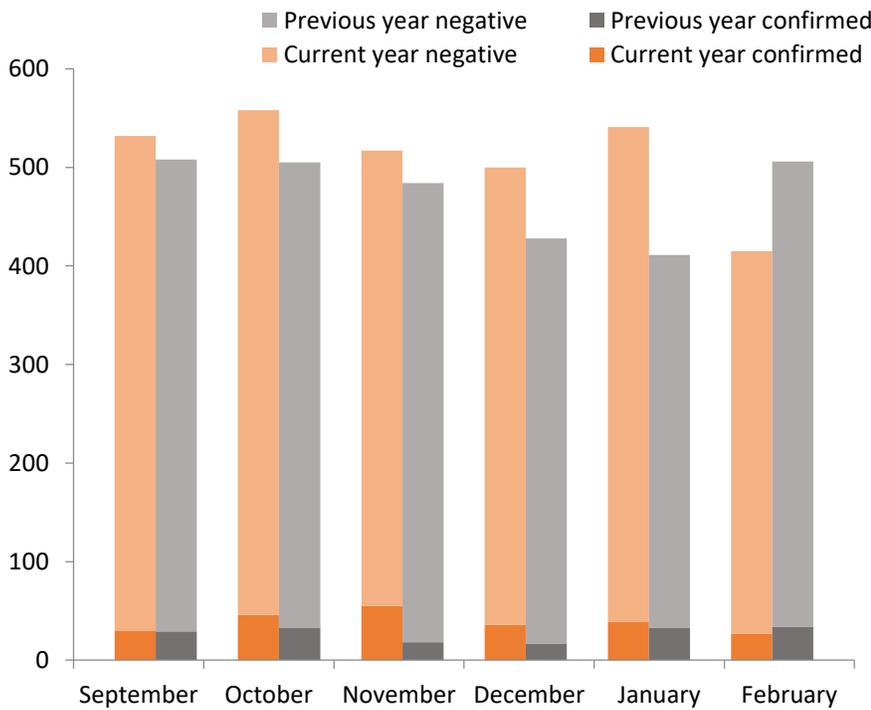


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHDL, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

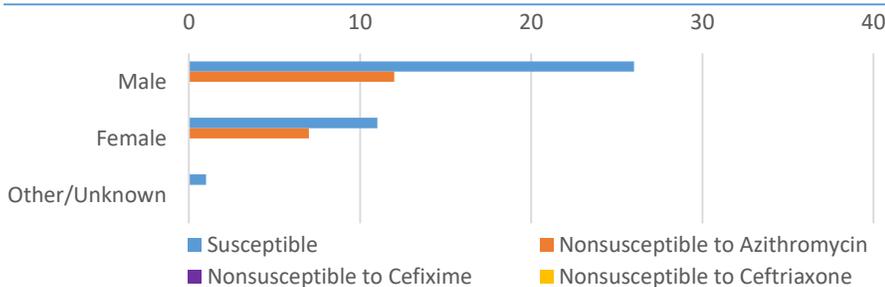


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In February 2020, 19 of 57 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHDL tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

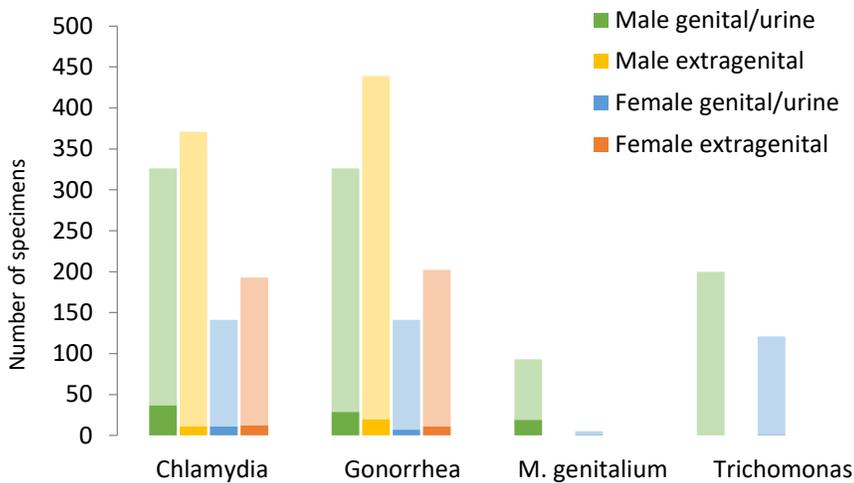


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In February 2020, 6.9% of male and 6.9% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 6.4% of male and 5.2% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 20.4% of male and 1 of the 5 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. No male specimens and 0.8% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral surveillance

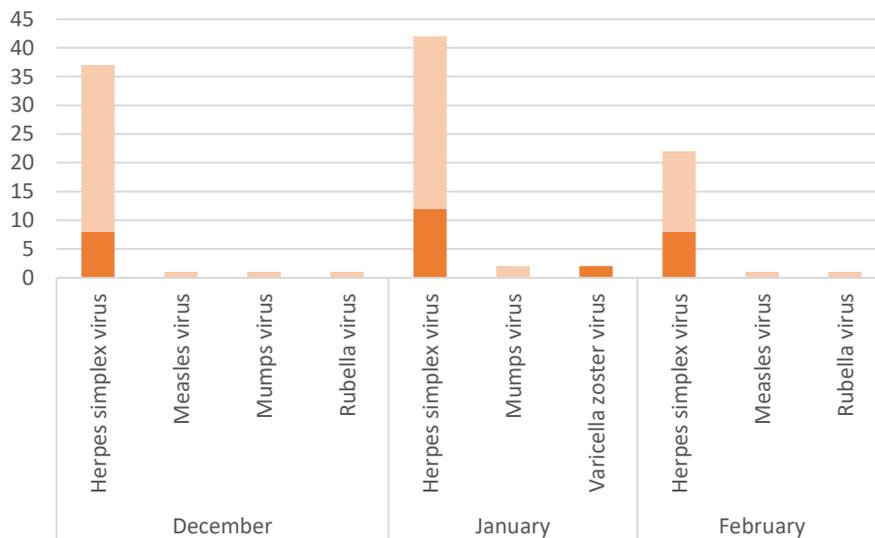


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

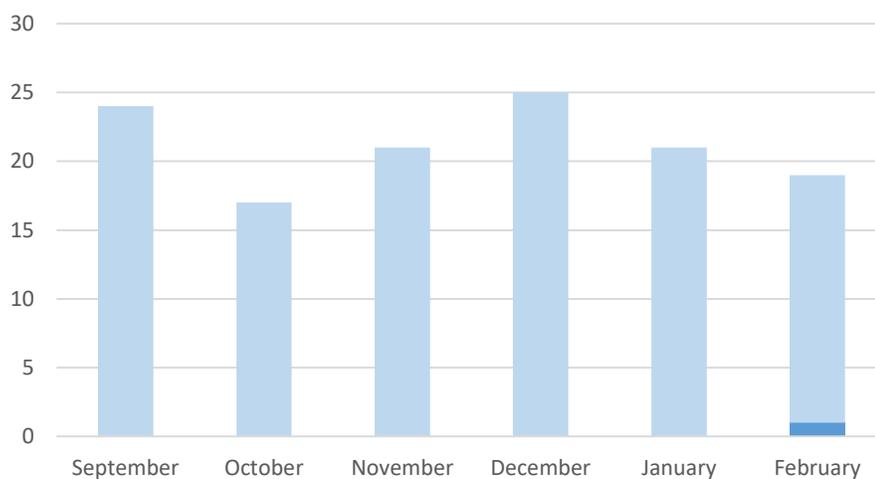


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila (none detected) by culture and/or real-time PCR.