



O R E G O N

QUARTERLY REPORT

**1st Quarter
March 2007**

Marion County Health Department
3180 Center St NE
Salem OR 97301-4592
(503) 588-5357
<http://health.co.marion.or.us>

To report a communicable disease
(24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Telephone: (503) 588-5621
Fax: (503) 566-2920

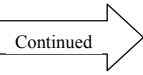
Vital Statistics Quarter Ending: March 2007	1st Quarter 2007 2006		Year to Date 2007 2006	
BIRTHS				
TOTAL DELIVERIES	1366	1369	1366	1369
Delivery in Hospital	1362	1353	1362	1353
Teen Deliveries (10-17)	58	70	58	70
DEATHS				
TOTAL	702	648	702	648
Medical Investigation	52	64	52	64
Homicide	0	3	0	3
Suicide	9	10	9	10
Accident – MVA	5	6	5	6
Accident – Other	11	15	11	15
Natural / Undetermined / Pending	27	30	27	30
Non-Medical Investigation (all natural)	650	584	650	584
Infant Deaths	3	3	3	3
Fetal Deaths	10	3	10	3
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES				
E-Coli: 0157	0	3	0	3
Hepatitis A	0	1	0	1
Acute Hepatitis B	2	2	2	2
Chronic Hepatitis B	9	14	9	14
Meningococcus	1	0	1	0
Pertussis	1	4	1	4
Tuberculosis	1	2	1	2
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE				
PID (Pelvic inflammatory Disease)	0	1	0	1
Chlamydia	253	244	253	244
Gonorrhea	33	28	33	28
Syphilis	2	2	2	2
AIDS	2	1	2	1
HIV Positive	8	4	8	4

Lizards and Turtles and Chicks, Oh My! The Risk for *Salmonella*

Karen Landers MD MPH, Marion County Health Officer

Approximately 1.4 million human *Salmonella* infections and estimated 600 deaths occur each year in the United States. Most infections are caused by the consumption of contaminated meat, poultry, or eggs. Another significant source of *Salmonella* in the U.S. comes from household pets including reptiles and baby poultry. An estimated 3% of U.S. households own at least one reptile. *Salmonella* is naturally found in the gastrointestinal tract of reptiles including lizards, turtles, and snakes, and contact with reptiles accounts for more than 70,000 human *Salmonella* infections each year. Cases of salmonellosis due to direct and indirect contact with reptiles are more likely to be associated with invasive disease, more commonly lead to hospitalization, and more frequently involve infants than do other *Salmonella* infections. Of the 252 *Salmonella* cases identified in Marion County since 2000, approximately 3.5% reported contact with reptiles as a risk factor.

The arrival of spring is frequently accompanied by a rise in *Salmonella* infections due to the purchase of baby chick and ducks. Baby animals, including baby chicks and ducks are sometimes given as gifts or put on display at this time of year.

Continued 

To meet the demand, chicks are specially hatched in large quantities and shipped around the country. Although the percentage of *Salmonella* infections caused by contact with baby poultry in the U.S. remains unknown, fewer than 20 hatcheries in the United States provide the majority of baby poultry sold in agricultural feed stores in the nation. Certain hatcheries have been implicated repeatedly as sources of baby poultry-associated salmonellosis outbreaks. In 2006, three outbreaks of salmonellosis were reported in the U.S. during the months of March through June, including one in Oregon.

Salmonella infections are typically characterized by diarrhea, nausea, headache, and sometimes vomiting. Fever is almost always present. Bloody diarrhea and invasive disease may occur with certain serotypes. Diagnosis is made by isolation of the organism from stool specimens or occasionally from blood in cases of invasive disease. Antibiotic treatment of salmonellosis is usually inappropriate. Antibiotic therapy may prolong carriage and encourage the appearance of resistant strains; it does not shorten the course or ameliorate the symptoms of non-invasive disease. Treatment should be reserved for those with invasive disease (e.g., sepsis) or who are at elevated risk of developing invasive disease (e.g., infants, the elderly, or those with impaired immune functions). If treatment is indicated, antibiotic sensitivities should be ascertained prior to initiating therapy.

***Salmonella* cases are reportable by law in Oregon. Report suspect or confirmed cases of salmonella to Marion County Health Department at (503) 588-5621, or fax case reports to the confidential line, (503) 566-2920.**

Purchasers of baby poultry and households with reptile pets are often unaware of the risk of *Salmonella* transmission from these animals to humans. The following are guidelines for safely handling reptiles and baby poultry:

ALWAYS wash your hands with soap and water after handling reptiles, baby poultry or anything they have touched.

DO NOT purchase live animals such as baby poultry as gifts for children. Give toy stuffed animals instead.

Reptiles, amphibians, and baby poultry should not be present in households that include children less than 5 years or persons with an immunocompromising condition.

DO NOT nuzzle or kiss reptiles, amphibians, or baby poultry while handling them.

Children should handle baby poultry and reptiles only with adult supervision.

DO NOT let reptiles or baby poultry roam free in your home; keep them confined in their own living area.

Keep reptiles and baby poultry out of the kitchen or other areas where food is prepared or eaten.

Kitchen sinks should NOT be used to bathe reptiles or baby poultry or wash their dishes, cages or aquariums. If bathtubs are used for this purpose, they should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with bleach.

Wash your hands, Wash your hands, WASH YOUR HANDS!!