



2020 Communicable Disease Snapshot

Overview of Communicable Disease in 2020

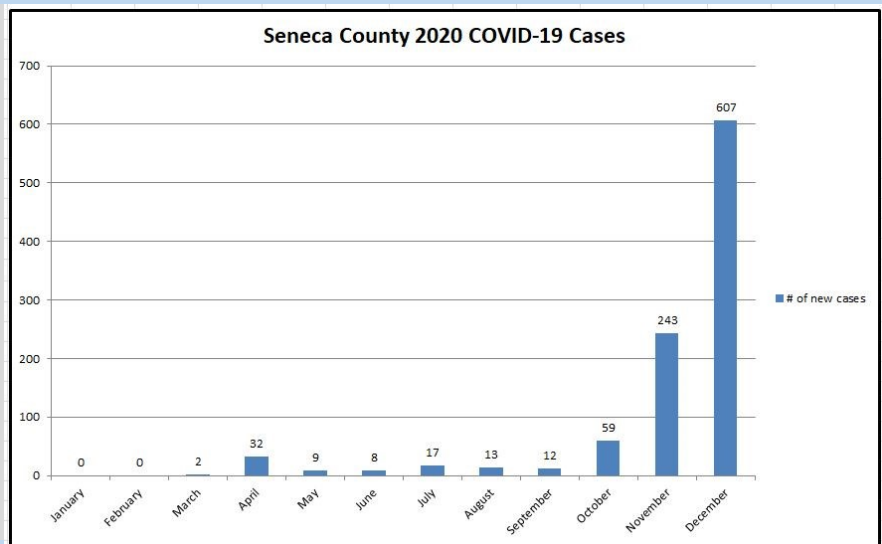
The 2019-2020 influenza season was on track to be similar in severity with the previous two seasons until the community wide shutdown in March due to COVID-19. Beginning mid-March, testing for influenza dropped off in the county and instead laboratory resources focused on COVID-19 testing.

Seneca County’s first case of COVID-19 was identified approximately two weeks after the shutdown, with the count surpassing 100 cases seven months later. Just two months after that, by year’s end, Seneca County had 1002 cases of COVID-19.

Health Department efforts during 2020 were focused on COVID-19 case investigation, contact tracing, daily monitoring of individuals on quarantine, and patient and provider education. While cases of all other communicable diseases dropped off very soon after the pandemic was declared, Health Department staff continued to monitor and investigate other communicable diseases as they arose. The sudden decrease in incidence of communicable diseases was in part due to stay at home orders, physical distancing and mask wearing leading to less transmission of disease, and due to healthcare and laboratory resources being centered on COVID-19.

Salmonella was the only communicable disease in Seneca County that saw a spike in cases in 2020, with a doubling of cases since 2019.

Disease	# of cases
Anaplasmosis	1
Babesiosis	1
Campylobacteriosis	13
Chlamydia	63
COVID-19	1002
Cryptosporidiosis	2
Giardiasis	2
Gonorrhea	19
Group A Strep	2
Group B Strep	6
Hepatitis A—Acute	2
Hepatitis B - Chronic	11
Hepatitis C - Acute	1
Hepatitis C - Chronic	288
Influenza A (2019-2020)	107
Influenza B (2019-2020)	100
Lyme Disease	17
Psittacosis	1
Salmonellosis	14
Shiga Toxin Producing E. coli	2
Strep pneumoniae	2
Syphilis	27
Vibriosis	1
Yersiniosis	3



Visit our website!
www.SenecaCountyHealthDepartment.com

Thank you to our Seneca County medical providers for their cooperation in reporting communicable diseases and STI’s. We value your partnership in helping us identify and mitigate potential outbreaks and for ensuring the health and wellness of our residents.

For questions regarding this report or services provided by Seneca County Health Department please contact us at (315)539-1920

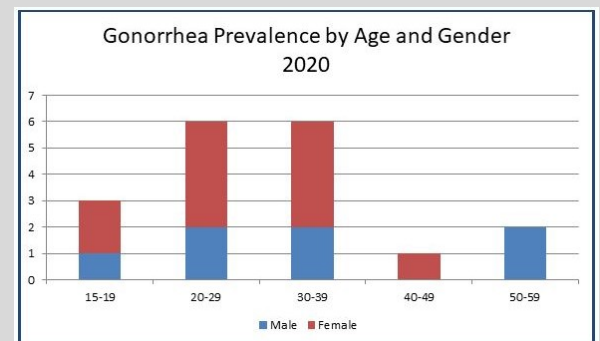
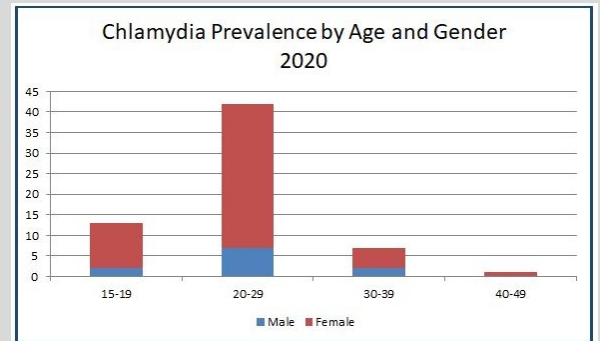
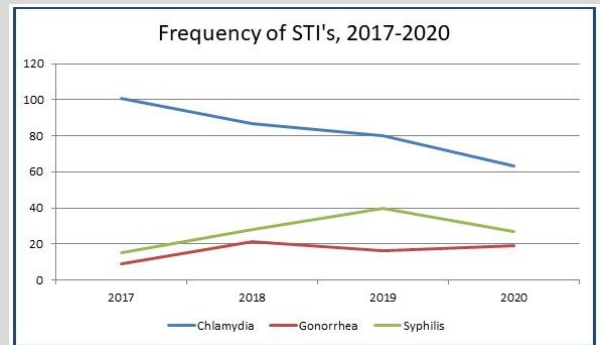


Sexually Transmitted Infection Trends



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Seneca County, NY

- The treatment of choice for chlamydia is a one time dose of 1 gram of oral azithromycin.
- ****NEW TREATMENT GUIDELINES**** - The recommended treatment for gonorrhea is a *single 500 mg dose of ceftriaxone IM*. The two drug approach is no longer recommended. Because re-infection is common, men and women with gonorrhea should be retested three months after treatment of the initial infection, regardless of whether they believe that their sex partners were successfully treated.
- Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is the clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the health care provider first examining the partner. EPT is legally permissible in New York and providers are strongly encouraged to prescribe EPT when possible to help curb the spread of chlamydia and gonorrhea. For more information on EPT, go to www.cdc.gov/std/ept.
- Primary, secondary or early latent syphilis is treated with a single IM injection of benzathine penicillin G (2.4 million units) while late latent syphilis or latent syphilis of unknown duration requires three doses at weekly intervals. Please contact Public Health for assistance with staging.
- The NYSDOH requires Local Health Departments to collect pharmacy or dispensing information on all STI treatment. Please continue to report how medication was provided to the patient and whether EPT was offered.



Rabies

In 2020 Seneca County held 3 free drive-thru rabies clinics which resulted in the vaccination of 244 animals. Environmental Health handled 69 bite reports resulting in 10 day confinements for the animals. Twenty-six animals were sent for rabies testing, of which two gray fox tested positive for rabies. Eighteen people were sent for post exposure rabies shots. It is very important to catch and save any bat found in the home, then contact the Health Dept. to determine if it needs to be tested for rabies.

Please remember that animal bites are reportable to Seneca County Environmental Health. Please obtain as much information as possible about the biting animal, so that we can follow up with the owner and ensure the animal is healthy or start rabies post-exposure treatment if necessary.

Tuberculosis

Due to the restrictions during COVID-19, no TST's were placed by Seneca County Public Health in 2020. Public Health received 6 referrals for positive TST's, of those referrals— 1 was ruled in for Latent TB. This patient chose to complete their treatment with the Seneca County Health Department TB clinic overseen by Dr. Eric Shives. No cases of active TB were identified in 2020.

The guidelines for treatment of latent TB infection were just updated in 2/2020. Per the CDC— to treat latent TB infection, CDC and NTCA preferentially recommend: • Three months of once-weekly isoniazid plus rifapentine (3HP). 3HP is strongly recommended for adults and children older than 2 years, including HIV-positive persons. • Four months of daily rifampin (4R). 4R is strongly recommended for HIV-negative adults and children of all ages. Three months of daily isoniazid plus rifampin (3HR) is conditionally recommended for adults and children of all ages and for HIV-positive persons. If short-course treatment is not a feasible or available option, CDC and NTCA recommend six or nine months of daily isoniazid (6H/9H) as alternative, effective latent TB infection treatment regimens.

6/2021