

2024 Communicable Disease Snapshot

Disease	# of cases
Anaplasmosis	1
Campylobacteriosis	23
Candida auris	2
Chlamydia	56
COVID-19	659
Cryptosporidiosis	2
Giardiasis	5
Gonorrhea	14
Group A Strep (iGAS)	4
Group B Strep	3
Haemophilus	6
Hepatitis A—Acute	0
Hepatitis B - Chronic	6
Hepatitis C - Acute	1
Hepatitis C - Chronic	110
Influenza A (2023-2024)	316
Influenza B (2023-2024)	86
Legionellosis	5
Lyme	62
Pertussis	13
RSV	148
Salmonellosis	8
Shiga Toxin Producing E. coli (STEC)	4
Shigellosis	2
Strep pneumoniae	4
Syphilis (new cases)	10
Yersiniosis	1

Communicable Disease Overview

Communicable diseases that Seneca County Health Department staff monitored and investigated were mostly routine diseases during 2024. The chart on the left shows the diseases investigated.

Pertussis

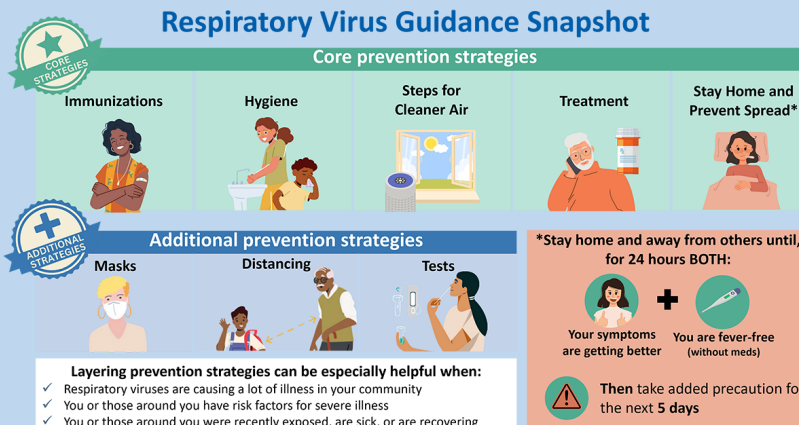
Of note, there were 13 lab-confirmed cases of pertussis, 10 of which were unvaccinated Amish and 1 was an unvaccinated Mennonite. The remaining 2 cases were up to date with pertussis containing vaccinations. The cases ranged in age from 6 months to 66 years old, with 9 out of the 13 cases being under 4 years old. Four of the children were hospitalized and 4 were coinfecting with other respiratory illnesses (RSV, h. influenzae, m. pneumoniae). We held an immunization clinic in Ovid to provide pertussis vaccination to help prevent continued spread of illness. Despite the promotion and advertisement effort, only 1 child came for vaccination.

COVID-19

Seneca County's lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases were down again in 2024, the second consecutive year with fewer cases than the previous year. Trends show that the majority of individuals sick with COVID symptoms either don't seek testing or choose to test at home, leading to fewer cases reported than are actually circulating in the community.

Respiratory Virus Guidance

We have been promoting the CDC's updated recommendations for how people can protect themselves and their communities from respiratory viruses. The new guidance brings a unified, practical approach to addressing risks from a range of common respiratory viral illnesses, rather than specific guidance for each illness. The guidance provides recommendations on core prevention strategies, along with additional prevention steps to further lower risk of illness. Below is a graphic summarizing the guidance.



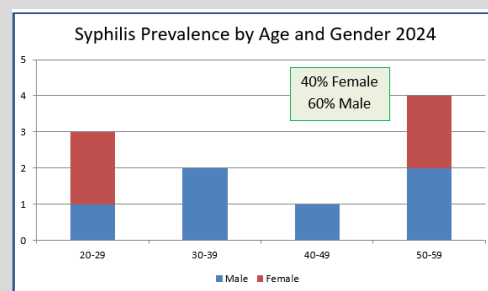
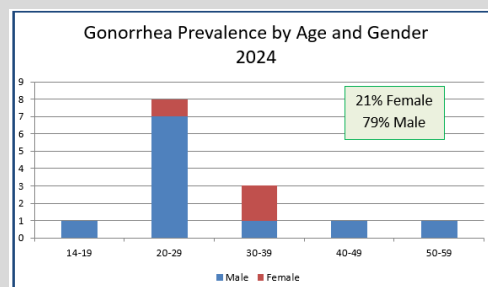
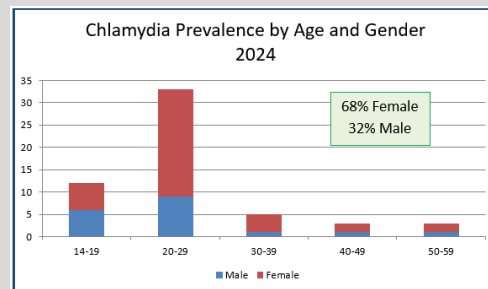
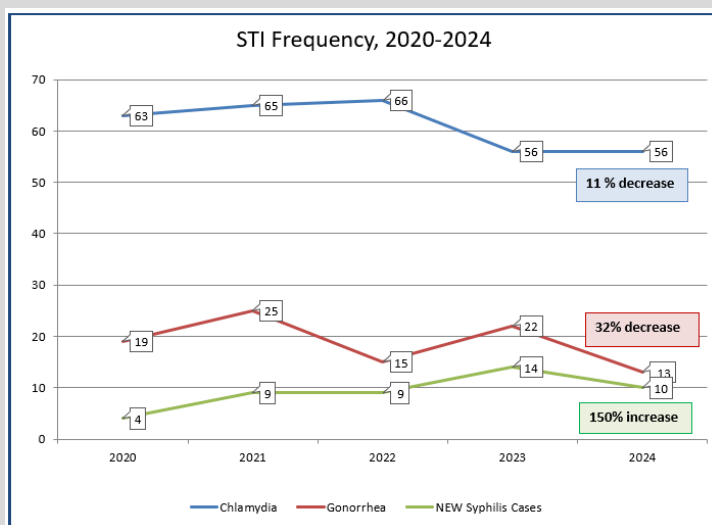
Thank you to our Seneca County medical providers for their cooperation in reporting communicable diseases and STIs. We value your partnership in helping us identify and mitigate potential outbreaks and for ensuring the health and wellness of our residents. For questions regarding this report or services provided by Seneca County Health Department, please contact us at (315) 539-1920

Visit our website www.SenecaCountyHealthDepartment.com



Sexually Transmitted Infections

- The treatment of choice for chlamydia is doxycycline 100 mg orally twice daily for 7 days. When nonadherence to doxycycline regimen is a substantial concern, azithromycin 1 g regimen is an alternative treatment option but might require post-treatment evaluation and testing because it has demonstrated lower treatment efficacy among persons with rectal infection.
- 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.
- 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.



Rabies

In 2024 Seneca County held 4 free drive-thru rabies clinics which resulted in the vaccination of 378 animals. Environmental Health handled 100 bite reports resulting in 10 day confinements for the animals. Twenty two animals were sent for rabies testing, of which 1 raccoon and 1 gray fox tested positive for rabies. Thirty four 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 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

Eighteen tuberculosis skin tests (TST) were administered by Seneca County Public Health in 2024. Public Health received 15 referrals for follow up investigation. Two of the referrals were ruled in for Latent TB. One case started treatment but chose to stop due to personal reasons, and one case successfully completed treatment. No cases of active TB were identified in 2024.

CDC and the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association (NTCA) preferentially recommend the following regimens for treatment of latent TB infection:

- Three months of once-weekly isoniazid plus rifapentine (3HP).
- Four months of daily rifampin (4R).
- Three months of daily isoniazid plus rifampin (3HR). 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.