

## New Electronic Newsletter

The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) is pleased to be able to bring to you this first edition of the **Infectious Disease Bulletin**. The purpose of the **Infectious Disease Bulletin** is to provide brief and timely updates on issues of concern in infectious disease epidemiology, along with a synopsis of selected reportable diseases. The **Infectious Disease Bulletin** will be disseminated via the Vermont Health Alert Network (VTHAN) and will be posted on the Health Department's website [healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov). For the first few months, it will also be faxed to health care providers' offices.

Electronic newsletters are increasingly being used by State Health Departments to disseminate timely information. We hope it will be a useful resource. For further information please contact Mary Spayne, editor, at (802)863-7240 or (800)640-4374 (VT).

Sincerely,

Cort Lohff MD, MPH

State Epidemiologist

Vermont Department of Health

## Influenza Activity

As of January 19, 2007 Vermont continues to report "no influenza activity" to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention influenza surveillance branch for the 2006-2007 season. While the VDH has received reports of influenza-like illness (ILI) and positive rapid flu tests, all specimens submitted to the VDH Laboratory for viral culture have been negative. Of the 16 Vermont medical practices, hospital Emergency Departments, and college health centers who participate in the U.S. Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network, most have reported little or no ILI to date this season. Nationally, influenza activity continued to rise during December, with greatest activity noted in the East South Central, East North Central and South Atlantic regions, with 29.7 percent, 19.9 percent and 19.9 percent of influenza specimens testing positive, respectively. Reporting of "widespread" or "regional" influenza activity decreased, however, from 16 states in week 51 to 14 states in week 52. For information on becoming an Influenza Sentinel Provider, please contact Sally Cook at 863-7240.

For more information on national influenza surveillance:

[cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm](http://cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm)

For more information on Vermont influenza surveillance:

[healthvermont.gov/prevent/flu/flusurveillance.aspx](http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/flu/flusurveillance.aspx)

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The **Infectious Disease Bulletin** can be viewed at [healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov)  
For questions & comments, please contact Mary Spayne, (802)863-7240

