**INTRODUCTION**

**Happy New Year and Welcome to 2019!**

The Epidemiology is looking forward to working together to prevent the spread of infection in Clayton County. We continued to work through the last quarter of 2018, following up on reported cases and staying informed on all related activities across the state.

**QUARTER IN REVIEW**

- The department received and followed-up on approximately 618 reportable infections in the fourth quarter of 2018. Approximately 185 were general notifiables and 433 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).
- A total of 15 incidents of animal bites were reported this quarter. 3 specimens were sent to the lab for testing. Prophylaxis was recommended for the victims involved as needed.
- According to a report from DPH, drug overdose cases across the state increased in some counties. The most recent report released in November 2018 can be found at [https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/Monthly%20SS%20Report_Nov%202018.pdf](https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/Monthly%20SS%20Report_Nov%202018.pdf)
- As the weather changes, the CDC warns and provides some tips for working in the cold to prevent illness and injury if outside for extended periods. For more information please visit: [https://www.cdc.gov/features/workingincold/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/features/workingincold/index.html)

**DID YOU KNOW...**

- According to a “2018 in Review” report released by the CDC, chronic disease conditions caused 2.2 million hospitalizations and 415,000 deaths in the United States. These events occurred mainly in adults between ages 35 – 64.

For more information from the report that includes looking at the most pressing health threats in 2018 please visit: [https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p1221-2018-year-review.html](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p1221-2018-year-review.html)

- The CDC estimates that about 2.4 million people were living with Hepatitis C from 2013 through 2016. Hepatitis C is a serious health threat affecting three generations of Americans – from baby boomers (born between 1945 and 1965), adults under age 40 and infants born to HCV positive mothers. Hepatitis C is preventable, treatable and can be eliminated.

- January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Cervical cancer is preventable and can be treated. It is important to get screened regularly for early detection and diagnosis.

More information on cervical cancer awareness, screening tests, options and the HPV vaccine can be found at: [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/resources/features/cervicalcancer/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/resources/features/cervicalcancer/index.htm)

**Have questions or need to report a disease or outbreak?**

**Call the Epidemiology Department**

678-479-2200 or 678-610-7193