

SANITARIANS' NEWS



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Any photos, stories, or any good news? Share in the April 2019 issue of Sanitarians' News

**Please contact
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WVPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2018



The 2018 Annual West Virginia Public Health Association Conference is planned for September 18-22, 2018 at The Resort at Glade Springs Daniels, WV.

This year's theme is "Public Health is Community Wealth" Information about the WVPHA Conference and registration can be found at the WVPHA website:

<http://www.wvpublichealthassociation.org/>

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Thursday, September 20, 2018

8:30 - 9:15: Reportable Disease Surveillance Update and Overview

Diane K. Gross, DVM, PhD
Regional Epidemiologist Monongalia County Health Department

**9:15 - 10:00:
Online Food Safety Training**
State Food Safety

10:00 - 10:30: Break

10:30 - 12:00: Eric J. Dotseth-
State Public Health Entomologist
Division of Infectious Disease
Epidemiology Office of Epidemiology
Prevention Services

**12:00 - 1:30: Lunch/ WVAS
Business Meeting/ Awards**

**1:30 - 2:30 Joint Session with
Onsite Professionals Section
Treatment Technologies Onsite
Round Table Discussion** Lynn
Brashear, Infiltrator Jim Donlan,
Eljen Justin Setzer, Polylok Dewey
Conrad, Septic Tech Rick
Hertges, RS , WV Public Health
Sanitation Joe Street, WV Class
II Installer, Blue Ridge Environmental

2:30 - 3:00: Break

3:00- 4:30: Treatment Technologies Onsite Round Table Discussion(Continued)

SANITARIAN TRAINING CLASS

AUGUST 6 - OCTOBER 26, 2018

**Please note the location for each week!*

Week 1:
August 6-10, 2018
Public Health 101, Microbiology, Epidemiology, Child Care Centers, Complaints, Reading Assignment for Week Two, Assignment of on-line Course work Exams (2)
Charleston
350 Capital St.
Room B-10

Week 2:
August 20-24, 2018
Body Art, Public Water, RTIA, Milk, Bottled Water, Environmental Engineering, Manufactured Housing, Cross Connections, Office of Laboratory Services Exams(3)
Charleston

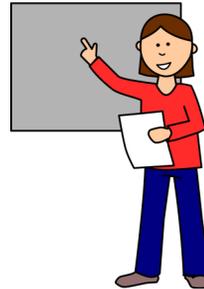
Week 3:
September 10-14, 2018
General Sanitation, Recreational Water Facilities, Infectious Medical Waste, Food Project assigned (Bad Bug Book Reading and Project), Exams (2)
WVU Mountainlair
Morgantown

Week 4:
October 1-5, 2018
Food Program, Exam and Turn in Assignment
Charleston

Week 5:
October 22-26, 2018
On-Site Sewage Program, Exam on Sewage Rule and Sewage Design Standards, Review for Comprehensive Final
Cedar Lakes

Week 6:
November 6, 2018 ONLY
Comprehensive Final Exam (Given By District Sanitarians at Locations to be Determined Prior to the Exam)

TBD Live Meeting TBS
Environmental Health Electronic Reporting Training



Online Coursework
for Sanitarian
Training

See <http://www.wvdhhr.org/phs/training/TrainingClass.asp>



ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

District In-Service Meetings - Check the Public Health Sanitation website: www.wvdhhr.org/phs

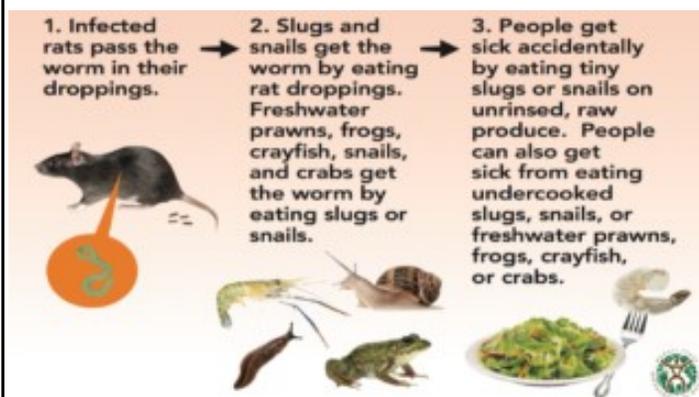


Rat lungworm cases linked to eating centipedes; host snails increasing in US By Joe Whitworth on August 8, 2018

A foodborne parasite detected in two patients in a Chinese hospital has been traced to consumption of raw wild centipedes, according to a case report by the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Researchers from the Southern Medical University and Zhujiang Hospital in Guangzhou said it's the first time the *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* parasite — often called rat lungworm — has been detected in a centipede species. Centipedes are used in traditional Chinese medicine, though usually in a dried or powder form, which does not transmit the parasite.

Mild infections with *A. cantonensis* may resolve on their own. But the parasite can penetrate the brain and spinal cord, which can lead to meningitis and, in some instances, paralysis and death.



“We don’t typically hear of people eating raw centipedes, but apparently these two patients believed that raw centipedes would be good for their health,” said Lingli Lu, a co-author of [the report](#) who works in the Department of Neurology in Zhujiang Hospital.

Lingli said the patients, a 78-year-old woman and her 46-year-old son, came from the rural countryside where it was believed that consuming raw centipedes offered potential health benefits. Both recovered with treatment.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *A. cantonensis* is mainly found in China and Southeast Asia and infections are usually linked to eating raw or undercooked snails. The parasite has been detected in the Caribbean, Hawaii, and more recently, in Louisiana and South Florida.

The Hawaii Department of Health has confirmed at least three cases of rat lungworm disease so far this year.

In Louisiana, it was found in the invasive apple snail, a freshwater snail native to South America that is sometimes consumed as food. In South Florida, the parasite was discovered in the invasive giant African land snail.

In 2017, there were 17 laboratory-confirmed cases of rat lungworm disease statewide.

The researchers in China purchased 20 centipedes from the agricultural market where the patients bought theirs. The immature, or larvae, form of *A. cantonensis* was detected in seven of them. They infected 20 centipedes with the parasite but the centipedes subsequently died.

Lingli said results could indicate that, while centipedes can be temporary hosts, it is not certain they are able to serve as intermediate hosts, a classification that indicates an ability to carry and spread the parasite over a long period of time.

A study in a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) published by the CDC looked at the epidemiologic and clinical features of 12 rat lungworm cases in the continental U.S. from January 2011 to 2017. Six were likely a result of transmission in the southern part of the country. Consumption of raw vegetables was reported in 55 percent of those cases.

In Hawaii, public health officials have said host animals, particularly snails, are frequently found in fresh lettuce and other salad ingredients that are served raw.

“Health care providers, especially those in the southern United States, need to consider angiostrongyliasis in patients with eosinophilic meningitis, particularly those with a history of ingestion of gastropods or raw vegetables contaminated with larvae,” said the report.

Hepatitis A Outbreak and Outreach

Since March 2018, West Virginia has seen an increase in Hepatitis A cases. The increase in cases has primarily been among injection and non-injection drug users, homeless or mobile individuals.

In response in to this in late May and early June, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health requested that the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department provide vaccination clinics in Kanawha and Putnam counties for restaurant workers since most of the cases at that time had been in

Kanawha and Putnam counties.



Kanawha-Charleston Health Department hosted several vaccination clinics in both Putnam and Kanawha Counties. Health Department employees can be seen here registering people for the clinic.

As of September 7, 2018, West Virginia has had 1116 Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases. More information for both local health departments and the public visit hepawarewv.org The number of cases related to the outbreak are updated at noon every Friday.

Sewage Corner

Rick Herges

A few tips or reminders for everyone:

Every now and then someone will mention the idea of scraping soil off the top of a site where the installer has installed the system much deeper than 36", so that the installation will meet design standards for max depth. This is NOT a reasonable fix for the problem. The measured depth, by itself, is not the issue. The required three feet of suitable soil below the trench is much more important than the actual depth. The deeper installation is already down in the less desirable material with limited suitable soil below to treat the effluent, so scalping the soil off the top will likely do more harm than good. In rare cases it may be possible to come back and dig a deeper soils observation hole to prove that suitable soil still exists for three feet below the deepest depth of the installation. In most cases, an extremely deep installation must be abandoned and a new drainfield (or portion thereof) must be installed.

Some installers will try to split flows by using a level "T" in a line, to direct 50% of the flow in two directions. I have seen sanitarians approve this. However, it is impossible to obtain equal measures of flow in two directions in this manner. Even if the "T" is installed dead-level, which is virtually impossible, a slightly greater sag in the pipe on one side or the other will force most flow in that direction. The only time a "T" can function properly for this purpose is in a level system, where the effluent can eventually back up from the (slightly) lower side into the opposite side as the system ponds more deeply with aging.



All of the area within the 10,000 square foot septic reserve area must be useable area. The area cannot contain erosion gullies, rock outcrops, areas of excessive slope, etc. If the topography or vegetation changes across the area you may need to require multiple soil observation holes to look for changes in soil depth or drainage characteristics. And also, while we refer to the 10K ft² as a "reserve area", it also includes the area for the primary installation, not just for repairs or replacement systems. And, the septic tank can be located outside the reserve area.

INTERSTATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SEMINAR 2018

The 2018 Interstate Environmental Health Seminar took place at Glade Springs Resort July 11-13, 2018.

West Virginia's Governor, Jim Justice, came and addressed the conference on the first day and stayed around for questions and pictures afterwards.

The agenda also included presentations from the different states that make up the Interstate Environmental Health Conference giving everyone the opportunity to get different view points and learn about issues that each state faces.

The conference rotates host location with the member states of the conference.



What's the Good News?

Congratulations to Judy Ashcraft on her promotion! Judy is now the Assistant Director of the Radiation, Toxics and Indoor Air Division!



**West Virginia Association
of Sanitarians**

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WVAS Executive Council

Elected Officers

President: David Whitaker

Vice-President: VJ Davis

Members at Large

2-Year: Judy Ashcraft

1-Year: Mark Hawkins

Appointed Members

Secretary-Treasurer: Linda Whaley **Newsletter:** Stacy King

Ex-Officio Member

Public Health Sanitation Director: Judy Vallandingham

