

**Public Health Necessity for Food Regulations I/II**  
*Epidemiology of Transboundary Diseases of  
 Importance in the United States*

**AGSC 5540: Food Policies and Regulations**

8-19-2021

*Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN*

*Aliyar Cyrus Fouladkhah, PhD, MPH, CPH*

*Faculty Director, Public Health Microbiology Laboratory*



1

## Week One: Content

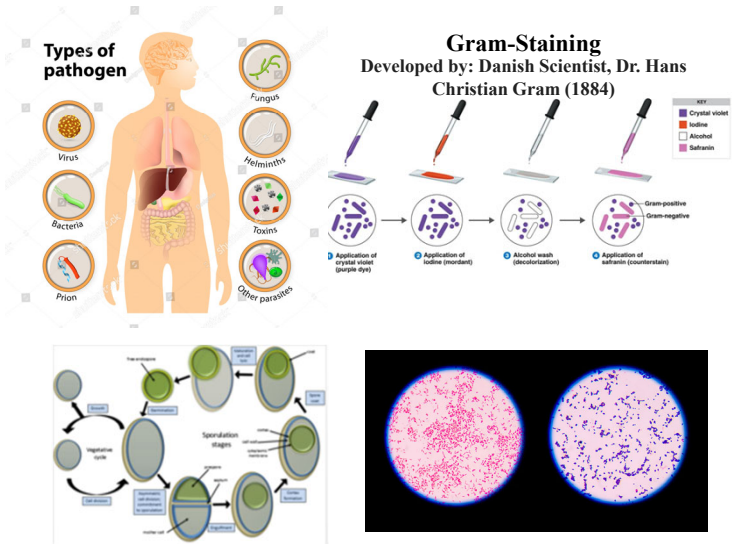


- Anthrax; Pseudorabies; Bluetongue; Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Brucellosis
- **Exercise 1**
- Classical Swine Fever; Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP); Equine Encephalitis; Hendra Virus; Japanese Encephalitis
- **Exercise 2**
- Lumpy Skin Disease; Q fever; Rinderpest; Sheep and Goat Pox
- **Exercise 3**
- Review of common epidemiological terminology
- **Exercise 4**

2

## Anthrax

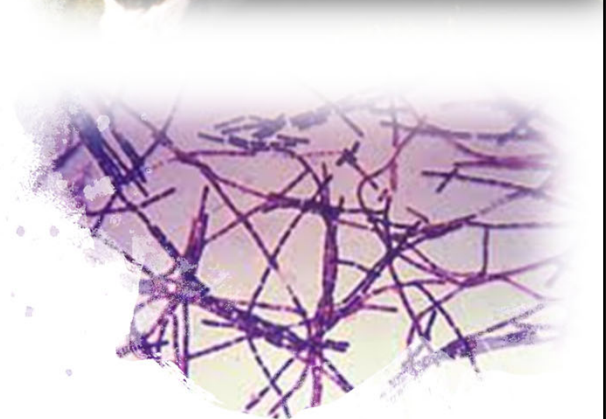
- Causative agent: *Bacillus anthracis*
- A **Gram-positive** and **spore-forming** bacteria
- Can be found as a spore in the **soil worldwide**
- Spores **viable for decades in soil**
- **In the US:** Dakotas, northwest Minnesota, Texas, and Nevada
- Common in parts of Africa, Asia, and Middle East
- In Human:
  - Skin
  - Intestine
  - Inhalation
- Animal disease
  - Septicemia and rapid death



3

## Anthrax

- Spores highly infective
- Remain effective during aerosolization
- Low lethal dose
- High mortality
- Person-to-person transmission rare
- **Symptoms** begin between **one day** and **two months** after the infection



4

## Anthrax- Control and Treatment

- **Four types in human:** Cutaneous (skin); Inhalation; Gastrointestinal; Injection anthrax
- Vaccine for livestock annually to prevent
- Personal Protective Equipment
  - When handling sick animals
- Disinfection:
  - **Sporicidal agents:** 5% formaldehyde, 2% glutaraldehyde, 10% sodium hydroxide
  - **Sterilization:** chlorine dioxide, formaldehyde gas, heating to 121°C for at least 30 minutes
- **Antibiotics:** effective for humans when **prescribed early**
- **Zoonotic Disease**



5

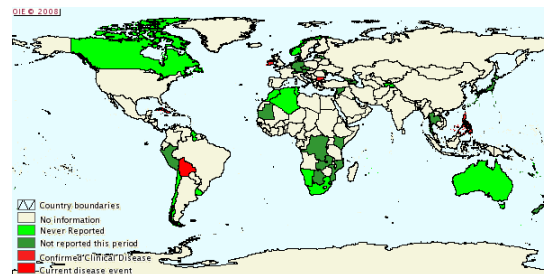
## Pseudorabies

- **Contagious viral diseases from herpes family**
- Primary concern in domesticated **pigs and feral swine (around 75 million hogs in the United States in 2021)**
- Primarily spread through direct **animal-to-animal (nose-to-nose)**
- **Other mammals**
  - Reproductive
  - Nervous system
- **Humans are not affected**
- Could be a **ubiquitous virus** in some area
- **Eradicated in many countries**
  - Still occurs in parts of world
- Current **USDA Surveillance** to detect any potential case



- Different than rabies that is an important zoonotic diseases.
- Rabies death in the U.S. now < 5 per year
- About 59,000 annually worldwide (>98% from stray dogs)

Source: CDC, 2021



6

## Pseudorabies

- **Transmission:**
  - Direct contact,
  - Reproductive,
  - Aerosol,
  - Ingestion
- **Incubation period: 2-6 days**
- **Common symptoms:**
  - Neurological
  - Respiratory issues
  - Itching intensively
  - **Stillbirths and abortion**
- **Morbidity and mortality up to 100%**
- **Neonates are particularly susceptible** to the virus



7

## Pseudorabies

- Considered a **reportable disease**
- Could lead to **economic and trade restrictions**
- **Treatment usually not recommended**
- **Current control practices:**
  - **Depopulation** of the diseased
  - **Test and removal** of carries
  - **Offspring segregation**
- **Vaccine available** in some countries for affected animals

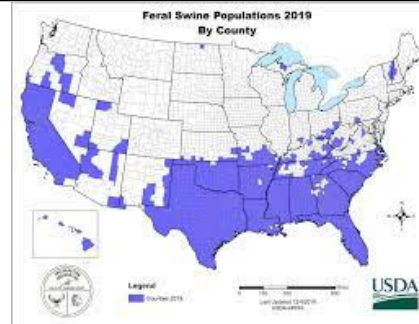


8

## Prevention of Pseudorabies



- **Isolation:** new or returning animals before entry into the herd
- **Disinfect** vehicles, equipment, premises, footwear
- Separation of pigs and feral swine
- USDA extensive **surveillance program**
  - All 50 states are current free since **April 2008 (commercially)**
  - Feral swine remain as a reservoir of the pathogen



Source: USDA APHIS accessed 2021



9

## Bluetongue

- A viral disease
- A **vector-borne disease** by *Culicoides* (biting midge)
- Common in **Ruminants** (primarily sheep)
- Currently **24 serotypes worldwide**
- **Six serotypes** isolated in North America
- Distributed world-wide
- Most significant outbreak:
  - **Mediterranean 1997-2002**



10



## Bluetongue

- Incubation period is 5-10 days
- Symptoms in Sheep
  - Swelling of face
  - Extensive nasal discharge
  - Blue (Cyanotic) tongue
  - Reproductive symptoms
- Cattle, goats
  - Mostly subclinical symptoms;
- Wildlife
  - Hemorrhages (Bleeding internally)
  - Sudden death



Sources: CDC Public Health Image Library, with modification accessed 2021



Bluetongue is not a significant threat to human health, in rare cases could cause skin complication

11

## Bluetongue- management

- Cost cattle industry **\$125B per year**:
  - Lost in trade
  - Animal testing
- **No treatment in Animal Industry: Supportive care** is only existing treatment
- **Prevention:**
  - Vector control (Climate change?)
  - Vaccination
- Vaccination challenge:
  - Serotype specific (Climate change?)
  - Adverse effects
- In Humans: low risk of infection, self limiting (Immunocompromised?)

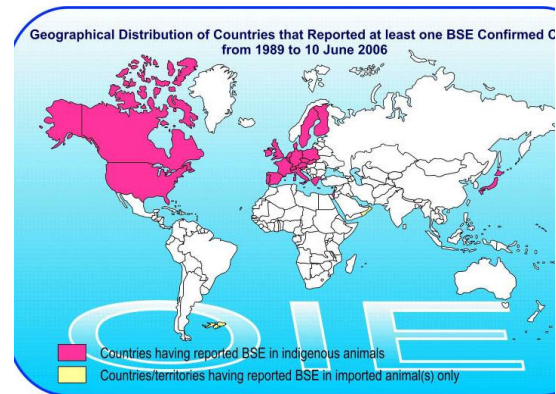


12

# BSE- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

*Commonly known as Mad Cow Disease*

- Caused by **prions** (infectious protein particles)
- **Cattle and humans** are susceptible
- A neurological disease that could be fatal
- **Transmitted by:**
  - Consumption of **scrapie-infected feed**
  - **Spontaneous mutation**
- Distribution is worldwide



13

## Symptoms of BSE

- In Cattle
  - Incubation period is 2-8 **years**
  - Initial signs are mild and subtle
  - At final stages
    - tremors
    - loss of balance
    - death
- In Humans
  - **Unknown incubation period** (many years to many decades)
  - Neurological signs
  - Depression and schizophrenia-like symptoms
  - Could lead to death



14



## BSE Management

- **Very resistant infectious agent (sanitization very difficult)**
- **Currently no effective treatment or vaccine**
- Prevention:
  - **Surveillance program and testing**
  - **Restriction in trade**
  - **Animal feed regulation** (bone meals and mammalian products)
- Outbreak in 2001-2002 in United Kingdom: Cost the industry 3.7 billion Euro

15

## Brucellosis

- Caused by bacteria (several species)  
(Genus *Brucella* e.g. *B. melitensis*, *B. abortus*, *B. suis*, and *B. canis*)
  - **Highly infectious (N95 or KN95 mask during farm visits?)**
  - **Easily aerosolized**
- **Transmission:**
  - Ingestion
  - Inhalation
  - Direct contact
- **Signs in animal:**
  - Reproductive complications
- **Signs in humans:**
  - Cyclic fever and
  - Flu-like symptoms



16

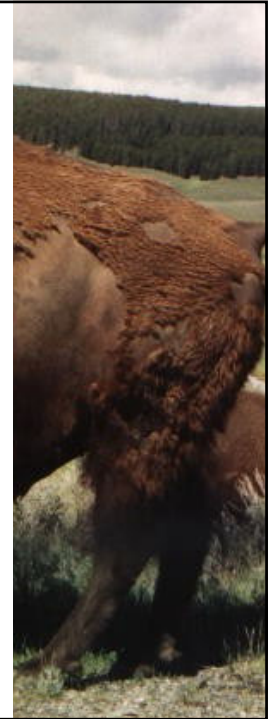


## Brucellosis- Treatment & Prevention

- Treatment: long-term antibiotics (Problem: Diversity of causative agents)
- Prevention:
  - **Vaccination** of calves
  - **Minimizing exposure to wildlife**
  - **Segregation of infected animals**
  - **Disinfection of environment**
- **No vaccine available for human**

### Main infection source for human:

- Contaminated milk, cheese, and ice-creams
- Handling farm animals (glove, goggle, secondary outfit +mask?)
- Hunting Activities



17

## Exercise 1



- What are the common sporicidal agents and sterilization methods for control of Anthrax?
  - What is the incubation period of Pseudorabies and common symptoms in Animals?
  - What is the incubation period for Bluetongue diseases and main symptoms in sheep?
  - What are the BSE symptoms in Cattle and Human?
  - What are some of the Brucellosis signs in human and strategies to prevent the disease in animal population?
  - What is the causative agent for each disease? (Bacterial, Viral, or prions)
- Anthrax; Pseudorabies; Bluetongue; Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Brucellosis

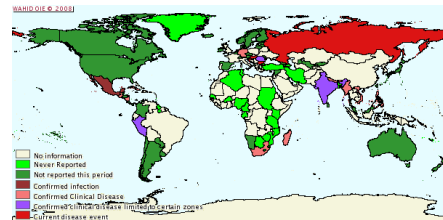
18

## Classical Swine Fever

- **Viral Disease** and very contagious and economically significant
- Disturbed worldwide
- **Spread through:**
  - Ingestion of virus
  - Direct contact
  - Aerosol
  - Insects (vector-borne disease)
- Feeding swine **untreated food wastes** containing infected pork scraps can cause infection
- **(By Product, Animal Food Regulation, FSMA)**



Source, USDA APHIS, accessed 2021



19

## Classical Swine Fever

- Incubation period is 2-14 days
- **Clinical signs variable** depending on:
  - **Strain of virus**
  - **Susceptibility and genetic makeup of the pig**
- Signs very similar to many swine diseases
- Signs could be acute to asymptomatic
- **Main symptoms:**
  - fever
  - weakness
  - anorexia
  - **purplish discoloration** of skin of ears, inner thighs
  - Could cause death



20

# Classical Swine Fever

- **Not a zoonotic diseases**
- Could cause **100% mortality** in swine herds
- Could cause **import/export restrictions** and economical losses
- Controlled by:
  - **Quarantine**
  - **Slaughter**
  - **Vaccine in endemic area**

Was **eradicated** from the U.S. in 1978

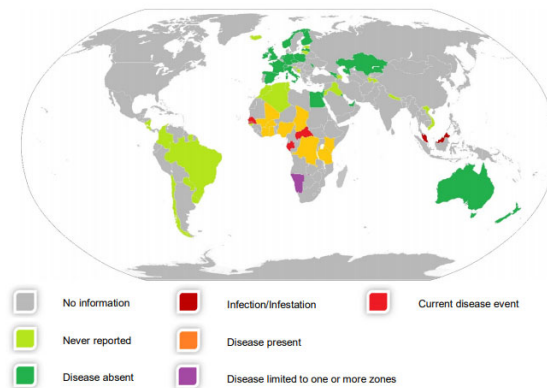
Producers obligated to **report sporadic cases** to USDA APHIS point of contact



21

# Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

- **Bacterial** diseases
- Mainly a concern in **Cattle** (**93 million** head inventory in the U.S. with about **31 million** as **beef cattle**, as of 2021)
- Also, a concern in **Buffalo, bison, yak, water buffalo**
- Transmission by:
  - Aerosol in **close contact**
  - **Transplacental**
  - Direct contact
    - **Saliva**
    - **Urine**
    - **Fetal fluids**
- **Eradication** had been successful in **UK and Australia**



Sources, USDA APHIS accessed in 2021

22

## CBPP

- Incubation period is 20-123 days
- Respiratory signs
  - Cough
  - Broad stance
- **Morbidity** could be as high 100% in a herd with close contact
- **Mortality** could range from 10 to 70%
- **Vaccine available** in endemic countries
- Human are immune, **not a zoonotic disease**



23

## Equine Encephalitis Viruses



- Three viruses:
  - Eastern (EEE)
  - Western (WEE)
  - Venezuelan (VEE)
- Transmitted by mosquitoes (**vector-borne disease**)
- **Birds** could be **asymptomatic carrier**
- **Clinical signs** in human and Equids (Horses, mules, donkeys)
  - No to mild signs to
  - Flu-like illness
  - Encephalitis in small proportions
  - **Can also infect a wide range of animals including:** mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians

24

## Equine Encephalitis Viruses

- The viruses are **very unstable** in environment
- **Supportive care** is the only current treatment
- **Vaccine are available** for Equine
- **Vaccine for human very expensive** primarily for:
  - Researchers
  - Public health workers with enhanced exposure
- **Travel Clinics for International Travel**



25

## Hendra Virus

- Viral disease **consider as emerging** (first observed in Australia)
- Natural infections had been **reported only** in:
  - Horses
  - Humans (first reported in 1994, very rare and under-reported)
- Current transmission by:
  - Fruit bats
  - **Bodily fluids and urine** of those infected
- Clinical signs in horses
  - Sudden respiratory signs
  - Nasal discharge
  - Fever
  - Encephalitis
  - Sudden death
- Clinical signs in Humans
  - Flu-like illness
  - respiratory complications
  - **Highly fatal in human, could be as high as 2 in 3 cases**



26



## Hendra Virus

- Little is known about pathogen
- **People at risk:**
  - Those occupational or recreational **exposure to horses**
  - Those **living close to “Flying fox” bats** (genus *Pteropus*)
  - **Researchers**
- Highest level of security (**CDC biosafety level 4**) needed for studying the pathogen (around 4 labs in the US and <50 in the world, as of 2021 [US has about 1,500 BSL3])
- Could cause high mortality in humans
- Currently no treatment option is available

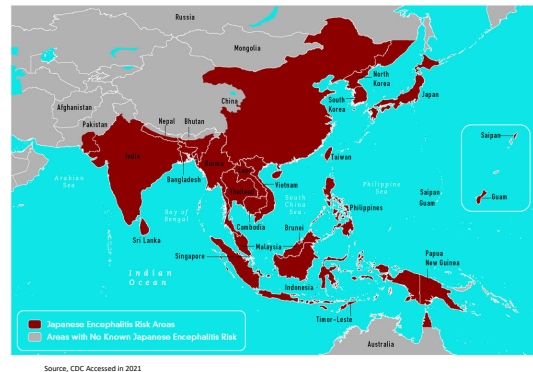
*(Great topic for term paper)*



27

## Japanese Encephalitis (JE)

- Viral infection
- Vector-borne diseases
- **Species of concern:**
  - Humans
  - Pigs
  - Other domesticated animals
- **Endemic** in many Asian countries
- **Supportive care** is currently the only treatment option
- **Vaccines available and effective for Prevention:** human, horses, and swine



28

## Japanese Encephalitis (JE)

- Incubation period is typically 6-10 days
- Clinical signs in Horses
  - Fever and
  - Neurologic complications
- Swine
  - Stillbirths
- Humans
  - Fever, weakness, and movement disorders
  - Headache, neurologic symptoms, and mental status changes
  - Could be fatal
  - Seizures common, especially among children
- Illness only 1% of people infected
- Typical incubation period in humans is typically 5-15 days
- Most cases, travelers to Eastern Hemisphere

**Just like many infectious disease: No treatment available but prevention by vaccines**  
(Measles, polio etc., no to **antivacers**) (Great topic for term paper)



Sources, CDC, accessed 2021



Sources, CDC, accessed 2021



Sources, CDC, accessed 2021

29

## Exercise 2



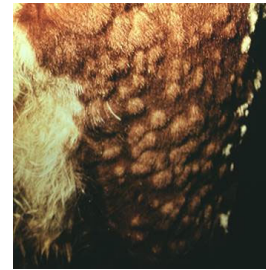
- What is the incubation period of Classical Swine Fever and what are the disease symptoms?
- What CBPP stands for and what are the transmission routes of the disease?
- What are the three Equine Encephalitis Viruses and what are the signs in human and equine?
- Among the pathogens we studied today, which one is considered an emerging pathogen that requires the highest level of biosecurity for researchers intent to study the pathogen?
- What is the incubation period of Japanese Encephalitis and what are the main symptoms in human, horses, and swine?
- What is the causative agent for each disease? (Bacterial, Viral, or prions)

Classical Swine Fever; Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP); Equine Encephalitis; Hendra Virus; Japanese Encephalitis

30

## Lumpy Skin Disease

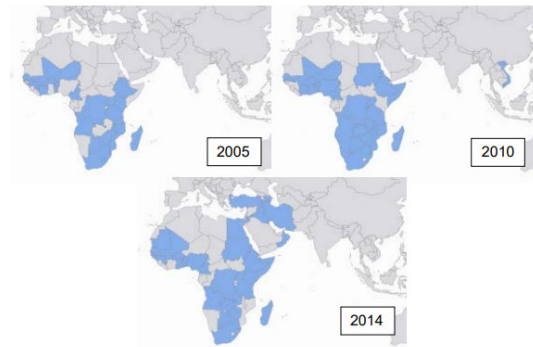
- Viral infection in cattle
- Transmitted by **mosquitoes and biting flies**
- Endemic in sub-Saharan Africa
- **Hyperendemic in rainy season (Why?)**
- Causes severe **economic losses**
- Could lead to **secondary infections**



31

## Lumpy Skin Disease

- Incubation period is typically 2-5 weeks
- Common symptoms:
  - Fever
  - Abortions
  - Decreased milk production
  - Nodules typically appear 10 days later
- Mortality rates could range as low as **2 to 85% of herd**
- Vaccination with **attenuated virus** available for livestock (**needs refrigeration**)



Sources, USDA APHIS, Accessed 2021



32

## Q Fever

- Bacterial diseases caused by *Coxiella burnetii* (**pasteurization indicator**)
- First described in 1937, is a worldwide zoonotic disease
- Was designated as **nationally notifiable disease** in the United States in 1999
- Transmission by:
  - Aerosol
  - Direct contact
  - Ingestion
  - Ticks
  - **Raw milk** (Cow-share program?)
- Clinical signs in sheep, cattle and goats
  - Can be **asymptomatic**
  - **abortions possible**
- Clinical sign in humans
  - **Flu-like pneumonia**



33

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**MMWR**

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Recommendations and Reports / Vol. 62 / No. 3

March 29, 2013

### Diagnosis and Management of Q Fever — United States, 2013

Recommendations from CDC and the Q Fever Working Group



## Q Fever



- Highly infectious bacteria
- Aerosols could **travel ½ mile by wind**
- Often **self-limiting disease** in human and animals
- **Antibiotic** required in case of complications (human and animals)
- **Vaccines for human** in some countries
- Prevention in human:
  - **Consumption of pasteurized milk**
  - **Limited exposure to diseased animals**

34

## Rinderpest (known as cattle plague)

- A contagious viral disease
- Primarily in cattle and domestic buffalo
- **Transmission** by
  - Direct or close contact with virus
  - Ingestion of contaminated food
  - Contaminated equipment
- **Was** common in East Africa and less common in Asia
- **Vaccine** offers **life-long immunity** for various species
- Not a zoonotic diseases



35

## Rinderpest

- Incubation period is typically 3-15 days
- Diseases had 4 forms:
  - (1) **Classical**: Common signs are fever, diarrhea, nasal discharge
  - (2) **Peracute**: Mostly occurs in young animals and is rapidly fatal
  - (3) **Subacute**: Mild signs with low mortality
  - (4) **Atypical**: Irregular fever mild diarrhea
- Major problem in 18th, 19th, and early 20th century
- Successful **global irradiation campaign**, last positive case in 2010
- In USDA Removed **Rinderpest Restrictions** after Worldwide Eradication (could re-emerge)
- Is now a **reportable disease**.
- Rinderpest only the **second disease in history** to be fully eradicated (outside research laboratories), following smallpox.



36



## Sheep and Goat Pox

- Viral Disease
- The **dominant Pox disease of domestic animals**
- Infection could **limit trade** of livestock and product
- **Common** in: Africa, Asia, and India
- Could lead to **secondary infections**
- Not a **human pathogen**
- **Vaccines for animals** available in endemic area
- **Susceptible to sunlight.**
- **Survives freeze-thaw cycles (infectivity may be reduced)**
- Could Remain viable in for **up to three months** in animal **by-products** (wool/hair and dry scabs on skin)



37

## Sheep and Goat Pox

- Incubation period is 4-13 days
- Common clinical symptoms:
  - Fever
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Skin lesions that may take up to 6 weeks to heal
- Mortality could be 50% in susceptible herds
- Mortality, typically around 10%, could 100% in the young



38



## Exercise 3

- What is the incubation period of Lumpy Skin Disease and what are the diseases symptoms?
- What microorganism is causing Q Fever in human and animals?
- What is the incubation period of Rinderpest and what are the four forms of the disease?
- What are the common clinical symptoms of Sheep and Goat Pox?
- What is the causative agent for each disease? (Bacterial, Viral, or prions)

Lumpy Skin Disease; Q fever; Rinderpest; Sheep and Goat Pox

39

## Occurrence Level of Disease

- **Sporadic** refers to a disease that occurs infrequently and irregularly.
- **Endemic** refers to the constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infectious agent in an animal or human population within a geographic area.
- **Hyperendemic** refers to persistent, high levels of disease occurrence.
- **Epidemic** refers to an increase, often sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in that population in that area.
- **Outbreak** carries the same definition of epidemic, but is often used for a more limited geographic area.
- **Pandemic** refers to an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of people.

• Source: CDC with modification

40

## Exercise 4

For each of the following situations, identify whether it reflects:

**A. Sporadic disease**

**B. Endemic disease**

**C. Hyperendemic disease**

**D. Pandemic disease**

**E. Epidemic disease**

1. \_\_\_ 22 cases of Salmonellosis occurred within 3 weeks among residents of a particular neighborhood (usually 0 or 1 per year)
2. \_\_\_ Average annual incidence was 364 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis per 100,000 population in one area, compared with national average of 134 cases per 100,000 population
3. \_\_\_ Over 20 million people worldwide died from influenza in 1918–1919
4. \_\_\_ Single case of Aspergillosis was diagnosed in a community
5. \_\_\_ About 60 cases of listeriosis are usually reported in this region per week, slightly less than the national average

*Source: CDC, with modification*

41

## Additional Resources and References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dsepd/ss1978/index.html>

Photo courtesy and source:

[http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Animal\\_Response/English/pdf/S8\\_SPN\\_ADE\\_Pathogens\\_Shortversion.pdf](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Animal_Response/English/pdf/S8_SPN_ADE_Pathogens_Shortversion.pdf)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation:

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/emergency-types/transboundary-animal-diseases/en/>

Principles of Epidemiology  
in Public Health Practice

*Third Edition*

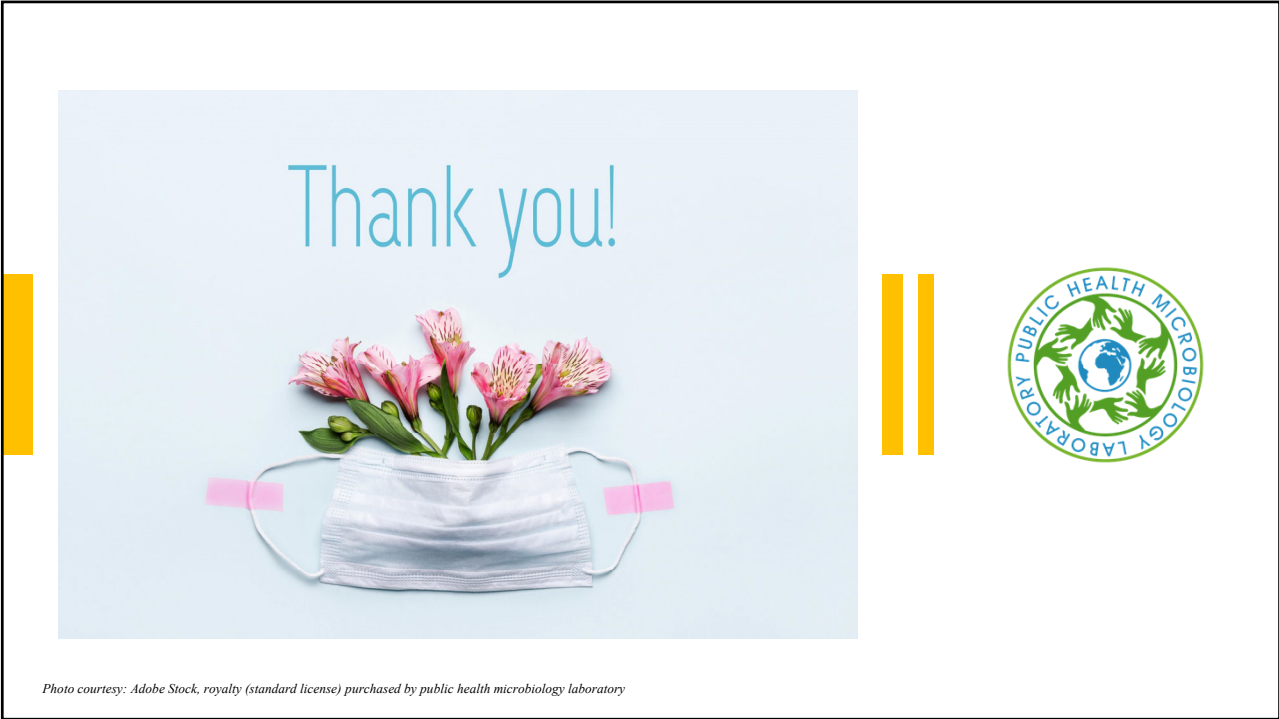
An Introduction  
to Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics



October 2008  
Updated May 2012  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
Office of Infection and Control Development  
Atlanta, GA 30333



42



*Photo courtesy: Adobe Stock, royalty (standard license) purchased by public health microbiology laboratory*