

CALIFORNIA CD BRIEF

This weekly report of surveillance and laboratory activities from the Division of Communicable Disease Control of the California Department of Public Health contains information on investigations in progress and/or diagnoses that may not yet be confirmed. **CD Brief** is intended primarily for the use of local health departments and infectious disease professionals, should be considered privileged, and should **NOT be distributed** further.

Report as of 8/26/2020 (Week 35)

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Valley Fever Update

CDPH updates provisional surveillance data on Valley fever (coccidioidomycosis) monthly to provide information to local public health partners and the general public about disease trends and to support messages about disease prevention. This monthly update is posted on the [CDPH Valley Fever Data and Publications webpage](#). As of July 31, 2020, 9,301 provisional Valley fever cases were reported in 2019. The number of confirmed Valley fever cases reported in 2019 will be posted in the near future and will likely be the highest annual number reported since case reporting began in 1995. While reasons for this record level are unclear, it might be due to several factors, including climate. The above-average level of rainfall during the 2018-2019 winter might have contributed to an increase in cases. Provisional monthly case numbers for January – July 2020 are lower than monthly numbers in the previous two years. As of July 31, 2020, there have been 3,416 provisional Valley fever cases reported in 2020. This decrease in provisional cases may reflect the COVID-19 pandemic influencing decreased care seeking, medical evaluation, testing, and diagnosis.

From September 2019 to June 2020, CDPH implemented a statewide Valley fever awareness campaign, which utilized paid media programs to communicate information about Valley fever to the general public and key audiences in California. This campaign, *Could Be Valley Fever*, included statewide digital and social media messages about Valley fever symptoms and general disease awareness. The target audiences for these messages included the general public in counties with moderate to high rates of Valley fever, as well as groups most at risk of developing severe disease (e.g., people who are Black or Filipino, work outdoors, or have weakened immune systems), and healthcare providers in California.

Notable elements developed during the campaign include eight new information webpages housed within the CDPH website that include comprehensive information about Valley fever transmission, symptoms, groups at risk for severe disease, and prevention tips. Each webpage was written in plain language, translated into Spanish, and also furnished with new graphics and figures to complement the messaging. An [animated video in English](#) and [Spanish](#) was also created as part of this campaign to highlight key messages about Valley fever and raise awareness about symptoms and an increase in Valley fever cases in recent years.

The new information webpages and animated video can be found at: www.CouldBeValleyFever.org. Please check it out when you have time. For questions or comments about these new CDPH Valley fever webpages, please email ValleyFever@cdph.ca.gov.

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