Fungal Disease Awareness Week: Year 2

October 1-5, 2018

Brittany Behm, MPH
Public Affairs Specialist
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC/NPHIC Communication Call
September 27, 2018
Why another observance?

- Fungal diseases can be severe and deadly
- Infections can be hard to prevent/acquired from the environment (breathing in spores)
- Often misdiagnosed (Valley fever up to 80% of the time)
- Need patients & docs to THINK about fungus as a possible cause of infection
Awareness reduces delays in diagnosis & treatment

- Fungal diseases often undiagnosed because symptoms look like those of other diseases (i.e. Valley fever looking like bacterial pneumonia)
- Anyone can get a fungal infection, even those otherwise healthy
  - Those with weakened immune systems most at risk
- We want people to know that fungi can make people sick and know their risk (where do they live, occupational hazards?)
The message: #ThinkFungus

- For the public: “Think fungus” if you have symptoms that are not getting better with treatment and talk to your doctors about the possibility of a fungal infection.

- For clinicians: “Think fungus” if you have a patient with symptoms that are not getting better with treatment, particularly those with weakened immune systems.
New graphics

PNEUMONIA
NOT GETTING BETTER WITH ANTIBIOTICS?
Ask your doctor about fungal lung infections.

SOME FUNGAL INFECTIONS CAN FEEL LIKE THE FLU
Ask your doctor if your symptoms aren’t getting better.

www.cdc.gov/fungal
How can you participate?

1. Join our Facebook Live event on Monday, Oct. 1 at Noon ET at www.facebook.com/CDC
2. Visit www.cdc.gov/fungal/awareness-week.html for social media messages, images and resources.
   – Follow the conversation w/ #FungalWeek
3. Review upcoming & recent fungal disease publications
   1. Thurs., Sept. 27 at 1 p.m. ET: MMWR on resistant Aspergillus
   3. Healthcare costs of fungal diseases in U.S. more than $7 billion annually (Clinical Infectious Disease)
How can you participate?

- Embed/promote 1 minute general awareness video
- Join Twitter chat during International Infection Prevention Week, October 14-20
- Use #ThinkFungus when communicating about mold cleanup after flooding
- Send a newsletter to your network highlighting the observance week
Zoonoses & One Health Update Calls

- Webinars are once a month for one hour; continuing education is available
- Upcoming October 3 call at 2 p.m. ET on resistant *Aspergillus*
Thank you!

www.cdc.gov/fungal/awarenessweek.html

Brittany Behm, MPH
Public Affairs Specialist
bbehm@cdc.gov
404-639-0667

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.