Public Forum on Valley Fever

Kern County Valley Fever Symposium

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Congressman McCarthy meets with CDC mycotic diseases experts on Valley Fever, April 22, 2013

Dr. Mark Lindsley, Mycotic Diseases Branch staff scientist, explains the reading of Valley fever serology tests to Congressman McCarthy
CDC works 24/7 to protect us from threats

- Monitor health
- Detect, investigate, and stop health problems directly and along with state, local, federal, and global partners
- Conduct research to improve prevention
- Implement prevention and control strategies
- Foster safe and healthful environments
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health
- Provide leadership and training
Coccidioides is common in the Southwest
Large increase in reported cases – and many more undiagnosed and unreported cases

An estimated 150,000 more cases go undiagnosed every year.
Valley Fever is on the rise

*Trends from 1998 to 2011*

- National trends
  - >100,000 cases reported in 28 states and DC
  - 66% from AZ, 31% from CA
  - Increase from >2,000 to >22,000 in endemic areas
  - Incidence in endemic states increased in all age groups

- CA trends
  - Almost 35,000 reported cases
  - From 719 to almost 5,700
  - Kern County: From 328 to >2,700
  - In 2011, incidence in males is double that for females (20.5/100,000 vs 9.7/100,000)
Heavy costs of Valley Fever

- Illness
- ~14 days off school/work on average
- Disability
- Health care costs
- Actual costs and burdens much higher than reported or generally understood
- Human impacts
Some CDC activities on Valley Fever

- Better understand disease patterns and costs
- Support state, local, and academic partners
  - Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity cooperative agreement
  - Staffing support for state/local public health
- Working with others to improve diagnosis and treatment
  - Epidemiologic study to help inform RCT
  - Evaluation and training on lab methods including environmental test
- Increase awareness among public, health care providers