

EPI Update for Friday, April 1, 2011
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Extended use of shingles vaccine**
- **Minnesota measles outbreak update**
- **Influenza update**
- **Former director of State Hygienic Laboratory dies**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Extended use of shingles vaccine

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expanded its approval of the use of shingles vaccine, Zostavax, to include patients between the ages of 50 and 59. (Zostavax is already approved for patients 60 years and older.) Shingles causes blisters and severe pain that can last from several weeks to years and is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. The virus lies dormant in the nervous system for years, but can reappear in the form of shingles for reasons that are not entirely understood.

Minnesota measles outbreak update

There have been 14 confirmed cases of measles reported in Minnesota. Thirteen of the cases have been linked to a case that acquired infection in Kenya and one case acquired infection in Florida. Cases have ranged in age from 4 months to 51 years old. Five of the cases were too young to receive vaccine, six were of age but were not vaccinated, and three have unknown vaccine status. There have been eight hospitalizations and no deaths.

Measles is a public health emergency. One Iowa child (too young to be vaccinated) was exposed in Minnesota and is in voluntary home quarantine in Iowa. Any individual suspected of having measles (fever, rash, and cough or coryza or conjunctivitis) or any fever in a person who has been recently exposed to measles, should:

- 1) Immediately have blood drawn for IgM serology to test for acute disease; obtain both a throat and nasopharyngeal swab, place in viral transport fluid, for virus culture and real time PCR, and send to the State Hygienic Laboratory (testing is performed at no cost to the patient and on an emergency basis if approved by public health).
- 2) Immediately be reported to the Iowa Department of Public Health at 800-362-2736 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) and the local health department. Investigation into possible spread at the health care facility needs to start immediately.
- 3) Immediately go home and stay home until measles can be excluded from the diagnosis. This and other control activities should not be delayed pending the return of laboratory results from persons suspected of having measles.

Persons with measles are contagious from one to two days prior to onset of symptoms, and about four days before rash onset to four days after the appearance of the rash. The incubation period is seven to 18 days, and averages 10 days to onset of fever and 14 days to the onset of rash. To prevent measles, children (and some adults) should be vaccinated with two doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Recommended immunization schedules can be obtained at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm. For more information on measles, please visit www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=measles_chapter. Updates from Minnesota are posted at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/.

Influenza activity update

While influenza activity is decreasing in Iowa, cases are still occurring. So far this season, influenza B has accounted for over one-third of all positive influenza specimens tested. The H3N2 and 2009 H1N1 influenza A subtypes have continued to circulate in Iowa as well. To see the weekly Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network Report, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/iisn.asp

Former director of State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) dies

Dr. William J. Hausler, the former director of SHL, recently passed away in Naples, Florida. Dr. Hausler began his work at SHL in 1958 as an associate bacteriologist. He served as the director from 1965 until 1995, when he was appointed director emeritus. He also held appointments as an assistant and associate professor in the University of Iowa, Department of Preventative Medicine, and as an associate professor in the Department of Oral Pathology. He was a professor emeritus in both departments. Dr. Hausler led SHL through the establishment of many key programs, including Newborn Screening, Environmental Health and HIV testing.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

35th Iowa Infection Prevention and Control Seminar

May 3-4, Gateway Hotel & Convention Center, Ames, Iowa.
Seminar will cover infection control and patient safety issues. For more information, visit: www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/UiConferences/

New Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) Report Training

A new IDSS "Report Training" module is available on the Prepare Iowa Learning Management system web site (www.prepareiowa.com) and will cover generating a report from the IDSS and includes two demonstrations for generating a report in both an Excel format as well as a comma separated values (CSV) format, which can be used to create charts and graphs. Also will provide specific instructions on generating the "Local Outstanding Follow up Report" which assists local public health agencies efficiently manage open investigations. For instructions, visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/idss/prepare_iowa_instructions.pdf

The 2011 Collaborative Laboratory Spring Meeting

April 13-15 in La Vista, NE (greater Omaha area). This meeting will provide continuing education for medical laboratory professionals, and cover updates on traditional lab subjects, explanations of new technologies, and the latest in instrumentation and policies. For more information, visit:

www.nscls.net/2011springmeeting.html.

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736