

**EPI Update for Friday, April 8, 2011**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**Items for this week's EPI Update include:**

- **Minnesota measles update**
- **Face masks during spinal procedures**
- **Events in Japan pose no radiological health threat to the US or to Iowa**
- **Updated bloodstream infection prevention guidelines**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Minnesota measles update**

There have been 15 confirmed cases of measles reported in Minnesota. Twelve of the cases have been linked to a case that acquired infection in Kenya (13 total), one case acquired infection in Florida and one case acquired infection in India. 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, one was vaccinated, and three have unknown vaccine status. There have been eight hospitalizations and no deaths.

IDPH and local public health partners continue to monitor reports closely. IDPH wishes to acknowledge the quick action taken by health professionals and the public in response to the Minnesota outbreak:

- Two separate health care providers in Iowa recently examined two children presenting with fever and rash. The health care providers tested the children for measles and notified public health immediately. The children stayed in home isolation until measles was ruled out. Both children tested negative for measles.
- An Iowa resident voluntarily complied with home confinement due to a known measles exposure. Based on the incubation period for measles, the confinement period has expired without the individual developing symptoms of measles.

Measles is a public health emergency. 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 and 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 IDPH 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.

**Face masks during spinal procedures**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are reminding clinicians to use face masks when injecting medicine or inserting catheters into epidural or subdural spaces of the spine.

This includes epidurals during childbirth labor, and injection of contrast dye during imaging procedures. Outbreaks of bacterial meningitis following these spinal injection procedures continue to be identified among patients whose procedures were performed by a health care provider who did not wear a face mask. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/SpinalInjection-Meningitis.html?source=govdelivery](http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/SpinalInjection-Meningitis.html?source=govdelivery) .

#### **Events in Japan pose no radiological health threat to the US or to Iowa**

The Iowa Department of Public Health Radiological Bureau continues to monitor federal efforts related to the March 11 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disasters in Japan. All federal and state environmental sampling conducted to date confirms that Iowans are safe. The CDC, EPA, and FDA expect no radiation levels of public health concern in the U.S. and say there is no indication of any kind that U.S. citizens need to take protective action.

For more information about CDC and EPA monitoring of the Japan incident, visit [blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2011/03/cdc-responds-to-earthquake-tsunami-and-radiation-release-in-japan/](http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2011/03/cdc-responds-to-earthquake-tsunami-and-radiation-release-in-japan/) and [www.epa.gov/japan2011/](http://www.epa.gov/japan2011/)

#### **Updated bloodstream infection prevention guidelines**

CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) have updated guidelines for the prevention of catheter-related bloodstream infections in patients. The new "Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections" replace the previous 2002 edition. To access the new guidelines, please visit [www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/bsi-guidelines-2011.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/bsi-guidelines-2011.pdf).

#### **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

Have a healthy and happy week!  
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
800-362-2736