



Quick Reads

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Novel Influenza A (H1N1) update

The first case of [novel influenza A \(H1N1\)](#), also known as swine influenza, has been reported in Iowa. The case came to Iowa from an area in which H1N1 has been reported. IDPH will continue to monitor the spread of this virus in Iowa and in the United States and take appropriate steps based on the information we receive. Toward this end, the department has temporarily designated suspected and confirmed H1N1 as a reportable disease in Iowa. This requires all Iowa health care providers and public, private, and hospital laboratories immediately report any suspected or confirmed cases of novel influenza A to the department. Additionally, a hotline has been established to answer public questions about the disease. That number is 1-800-447-1985. A hotline for health care providers is available at 1-866-282-5815. More information on swine influenza is also available at www.idph.state.ia.us.

Budget update

With the 2009 Legislative Session now over, I am happy to report that IDPH will be receiving a bit more funding than originally anticipated. While there were few changes in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill, the main vehicle for IDPH funding, the department will benefit from resources included in other appropriations bills. The Federal Block Grant/Stimulus Funds provides \$700,000 for Elderly Wellness programs, \$500,000 for programs funded within Community Capacity, and \$1.8 million to Resource Management to be allocated to the areas of greatest need. This \$3 million total will alleviate the impacts to public health programs and services in FY 2010 but will not be available in FY 2011. The same appropriations bill includes \$20,000 to IDPH to support administrative costs for expansion of the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program. Also of interest to public health is \$130,000 included in the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund for vision screening through Prevent Blindness Iowa.

First “Medical Home” report released

The [Medical Home System Advisory Council](#) has released its first [progress report](#). It addresses four building block recommendations for moving a medical home system in Iowa forward. The report is being disseminated widely and provides the framework for developing workgroups to support implementation of the building block recommendations. To view this report and learn about the activities of other Health Care Reform committees, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/hcr_committees.

New toolkit introduces and expands knowledge of public health

The University of Iowa’s [Institute for Public Health Practice](#) and the Iowa Counties Public Health Association has created a [Public Health Toolkit](#). The toolkit is meant to help you do your job and provides you with a single point of access to current and timely resources. In it you’ll find: introductory material for those new to public health practice; suggestions for educating and training public health professionals; links to national and Iowa-focused public health and related organizations; critical resources for practitioners in Iowa; an index to public health topics in Iowa and the United States; and much more.

To access the toolkit, visit www.public-health.uiowa.edu/umphtc/education/phtoolkit or search “Toolkit” on the Prepare Iowa Learning Management System at www.prepareiowa.com.

Iowa asthma program nationally recognized

Iowa’s [Asthma Control Program](#) has recently been featured in a CDC publication called [America Breathing Easier](#). In particular, our state’s innovative “The Young and the Breathless” youth asthma control training program was recognized for providing training to more than 1,000 child care providers, over 200 licensed child care centers, and four major school districts since September 2003. Thanks to the work of many partners, The Young and the Breathless program has touched the lives of more than 19,000 children receiving child care services or attending school in Iowa. Congratulations! To view the publication, visit www.cdc.gov/asthma.

Register now for immunization conference

Registration is now open for the “Immunize for a Better Life” [Statewide Immunization Conference](#), June 10-11, 2009, at Hy-Vee Hall. The conference will include nationally known speakers and presentations on the importance of the hepatitis B vaccine birth dose, vaccine safety, pediatric and adolescent vaccine recommendations, and communicating effectively with parents regarding vaccines. Between 600 and 700

attendees are expected from a diverse field of health care professions. Visit www.trainingresources.org.

We want your best practices

IDPH is committed to telling the citizens of Iowa about the good things public health is doing to make a difference. To do this, we want to highlight your best practices/success stories. Please send your ideas to Don McCormick at dmccormi@idph.state.ia.us.

*To everyone in public health and all our partners—keep up the great work!
Tom*