

EPI Update for Friday, May 13, 2011
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Tick bite and tick-borne disease prevention**
- **Measles activity continues in the United States and abroad**
- **New country-specific yellow fever vaccine recommendations**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Tick bite and tick-borne disease prevention

Tick activity increases as temperatures rise. The best way to prevent Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases is to protect yourself, especially when you are in wooded and brushy areas.

- If possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Wear light-colored clothing for easier visualization of ticks.
- Use a tick-specific repellent (e.g., one which contains DEET).
- Check the entire body for ticks daily, and promptly remove ticks.

The Infectious Diseases Society of America provides recommendations for addressing tick bites and tick-borne diseases. To access those recommendations visit cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/43/9/1089.full.pdf+html.

Measles activity continues in the United States and abroad

The number of confirmed measles cases in the U.S. continues to rise. States that have reported cases include Florida, Utah, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Kansas, and Pennsylvania. The index cases in nearly all outbreaks are associated with overseas travel. Europe is currently reporting over 6,500 measles cases in 33 countries. As the vacation season begins and travel increases, ensure that everyone is up-to-date on the measles vaccine (MMR), especially before any travel.

New country-specific yellow fever vaccine recommendations

The CDC, World Health Organization (WHO), and yellow fever and travel medicine experts have revised the criteria and maps that describe the worldwide risk of yellow fever virus transmission. As a result, new country-specific yellow fever vaccine recommendations have been developed. Visit CDC's Travelers' Health website at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2010/chapter-2/yellow-fever-vaccine-requirements-and-recommendations.htm.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Nurses' Caps: A Search for Meaning

In honor of nurse's week, we have included a link to the article "Nurses' Caps: A Search for Meaning". Whether worn or not, nurses' caps are a universal symbol of nursing. For

the complete article see www.medscape.com/viewarticle/741581 . (Registration is required.)

Immunize for a Better Life

June 8-9, Des Moines. Designed for a diverse field of health care professionals interested in learning about immunizations. For information, visit www.trainingresources.org.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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