

EPI Update for Friday, June 24, 2011
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Mucormycosis following Joplin, Missouri tornado**
- **Healthy habits during stressful times**
- **Measles vaccination recommendations for international travel**
- **West Nile activity in Iowa**
- **Ten greatest achievements in public health**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Mucormycosis following Joplin, Missouri tornado

The CDC and the Missouri health department have reported an increase in a fungal skin infection called Mucormycosis in persons injured by the Joplin tornado. These fungi are typically found in the soil and in decaying organic matter. Risk factors include uncontrolled diabetes, cancer, organ transplantation, low white blood cell count, and skin trauma. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/mucormycosis/.

Healthy habits during stressful times

Good nutrition and healthy habits are especially important during stressful times such as flood response and recovery. These simple habits can help manage stress:

- Stay hydrated
- Eat well-balanced meals
- Follow safety precautions to minimize injury
- Protect your skin
- Take time to re-charge

For more information please visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphNews/Reader.aspx?id=E98855F1-432D-4679-8406-BB438BC0A34E.

Infant measles vaccination recommendations for international travel

Because of the increases and outbreaks of measles occurring in Europe and many other countries, it is recommended that before any international travel, infants 6 months through 11 months of age should be given one dose of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine. This will provide protection after maternal antibodies decline and before the first routine MMR is given (usually at 12 to 15 months of age). However, this dose will not count towards the two MMR doses required prior to school entry.

Children 12 months of age or older should have two doses of MMR (separated by at least 28 days) prior to international travel. These doses will count for the two required prior to school entry. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/measles/travelers.html or www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/default.htm.

West Nile activity in Iowa

The State Hygienic Laboratory and Medical Entomology at ISU this week confirmed West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes from Polk County. West Nile virus is endemic in Iowa and activity usually peaks in late summer and early fall. Surveillance for *Culex pipiens* and *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes (the primary carriers of WNV) will continue in Iowa throughout this time period. For more information on West Nile virus, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/WNV.aspx.

Ten greatest achievements in public health

Achievement #4 – Maternal and Infant Health

There has been a significant reduction in the number of infants born with neural tube defects (NTDs) and screening has improved in newborns for metabolic and other heritable disorders. Folic acid fortification of cereal grain products contributed to a 36 percent reduction in NTDs from 1996 to 2006.

A uniform newborn screening panel of diseases has led to earlier life-saving treatment and intervention for at least 3,400 additional newborns each year with selected genetic and endocrine disorders. In 2003, all but four states were screening for only six of these disorders. By April 2011, all states reported screening for at least 26 disorders. Iowa tests all newborns for more than 35 conditions. Also, today in the U.S., almost all newborns are tested for hearing loss.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy, happy week (and enjoy the cooler weather)!

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