

**EPI Update for Friday, July 15, 2011**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

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

- **Iowa's annual notifiable disease report**
- **Outpatient guide and infection prevention checklist**
- **Rinderpest: historical significance, part II**
- **Iowa's deer herd is negative for chronic wasting disease**
- **Ten greatest achievements in public health**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Iowa's annual notifiable disease report**

In 2010, there were more than 60,000 reportable diseases and conditions submitted to IDPH. Most were infectious diseases, including chlamydia and other STD's, TB, and campylobacteriosis, as well as other food borne diseases. IDPH also investigates conditions such as lead poisoning, occupational injuries and deaths, and environmental hazards like carbon monoxide. (For example, approximately 100,000 blood lead test results were reported to IDPH in 2010.)

Great strides were made in improving surveillance, especially for environmental exposures like carbon monoxide and lead in young children. This data has already begun to help shape new policies, including a legislative requirement for children to have completed lead screening prior to kindergarten entry.

In 2010, the number of vaccine-preventable diseases decreased when compared to the three-year average (2007-2009); however, the number of pertussis and mumps cases increased. Pertussis cases had a 229 percent increase when compared to the three-year average, while mumps had a 73 percent increase.

To view the complete report, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Default.aspx#CR](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Default.aspx#CR) under "Reports."

**Outpatient guide and infection prevention checklist**

CDC has released its *Guide to Infection Prevention in Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care*. This easy-to-reference guide has been specifically developed and packaged for outpatient care settings, and serves to remind healthcare providers of the infection prevention practices that protect their patients and themselves. To view the guidelines, visit [www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/guidelines/Ambulatory-Care-04-2011.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/guidelines/Ambulatory-Care-04-2011.pdf).

**Rinderpest: historical significance, part II**

The devastation of "cattle plague" in Europe throughout the 1700s was so severe that the College of Cardinals in Rome commissioned Pope Clement XI's personal physician to provide guidance on the disease. The physician recommended halting cattle

movement, slaughtering entire herds with infected animals and deeply burying the bodies, and keeping healthy herds isolated. These recommendations halted the outbreak within the Papal States within a year; however, the disease went on to kill an estimated 200 million cattle between 1711 and 1769 throughout the rest of Protestant Europe. The recommendations eventually led to the eradication of rinderpest in Europe through cleaning, decontamination, and the quarantining of infected and exposed animals. In 1761, the first school of veterinary medicine was founded in Lyon, France, specifically to address rinderpest.

### **Iowa's deer herd is negative for chronic wasting disease**

The DNR collected nearly 4,700 tissue samples from harvested deer in 2010. All samples tested negative for chronic wasting disease (CWD). CWD is a prion disease, and there is concern (though low probability) of transmission to humans. For more information about CWD, visit [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/cwd/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/cwd/).

### **Ten greatest achievements in public health**

#### *Achievement #7 – Occupational Safety Improvements*

Significant progress has been made in improving working conditions and reducing the risk for workplace-associated injuries. For example, patient lifting has been a substantial cause of low back injuries among the 1.8 million U.S. healthcare workers in nursing care and residential facilities. Following widespread dissemination and adoption of patient-lifting best practices by the nursing home industry, there was a 35 percent decline in low back injuries in residential and nursing care employees between 2003 and 2009.

The annual cost of farm-associated injuries among youth has been estimated at \$1 billion annually. A comprehensive childhood agricultural injury prevention initiative was established to develop guidelines for parents to match chores with their child's development and physical capabilities. Follow-up data have demonstrated a 56 percent decline in youth farm injury rates from 1998 to 2009.

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

None

### **We wish everyone a very happy week! Stay healthy and mosquito bite-free!**

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