

EPI Update for Friday, July 29, 2011
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **2011-2012 season influenza vaccine**
- **Immunization conference presentations available**
- **Follow IDPH on Twitter!**
- **Foodborne illness videos for patients and health care providers**
- **Ten greatest achievements in public health**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

2011-2012 season influenza vaccine

The FDA has approved the 2011-2012 season influenza vaccine formula, which will protect against the three virus strains expected to circulate in the upcoming flu season. The virus strains are the same as those used in the 2010-2011 influenza season:

- Influenza A (H1N1) strain A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus;
- Influenza A (H3N2) strain A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- Influenza B/Brisbane 60/2008-like virus.

CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and best way to protect against influenza.

Flu vaccine types:

- The flu shot
 - Several brands of flu shots approved for people 6 months of age and older
 - A high-dose flu shot approved for people 65 years of age and older
 - An intradermal flu shot approved for people 18 to 64 years of age
- The nasal-spray flu vaccine, which contains live, weakened flu viruses. Approved for use in non-pregnant healthy people 2 through 49 years of age.

Immunization conference presentations available

Speaker presentations from the 2011 Iowa Immunization Conference are now available on the IDPH Immunization program webpage at www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx. The presentations will only be available for viewing until October 28, 2011.

Follow IDPH on Twitter!

If you're not already following IDPH on Twitter, now is your chance. Setting up a Twitter account is easy and it's free! Whether you're a medical provider, health advocate, media partner or local public health professional, the IDPH Twitter feed, IAPublicHealth, provides a convenient way to stay current on public health topics in Iowa that affect your work. Here are some examples of recent tweets:

Nine cases of West Nile virus were detected in 2010. More annual Iowa disease data is at <http://bit.ly/qeNH0V>.

The local Iowa Public Health Standards have been revised. Learn why and how on page 6 of <http://bit.ly/nZ2OcG>.

How does the Iowa Smokefree Air Act apply to parks and outdoor entertainment events? See <http://bit.ly/nACSKH>.

Please contact Don McCormick at 515-281-6692 or Donald.McCormick@idph.iowa.gov.

Foodborne illness videos for patients and health care providers

IDPH, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) and the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL), has created three videos to assist the public and health care providers in identifying and testing for foodborne illnesses:

- *What Should I Do If I Think I Have A Foodborne Illness?* Describes what the public should do if they suspect they have a foodborne illness (food poisoning).
- *How Healthcare Providers Can Help Detect Foodborne Illness.* Steps healthcare providers should take if their patient may have a food borne illness.
- *How to Collect a Stool Sample.* To assist patients to correctly collect a stool sample and send for testing.

To view the videos, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Foodborne.aspx, and look under video resources at the bottom of the page. Health care providers can request free DVD copies of the videos for patients to view during office visits and for staff by calling 800-362-2736.

Yellow Fever vaccine provider information

Information has been posted about how to become a Yellow Fever vaccine provider. Visit [FAQ About Becoming a Yellow Fever Vaccine Provider in Iowa](#).

Ten greatest achievements in public health

Achievement #9 – Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

In 2000, childhood lead poisoning remained a major environmental public health problem in the United States, affecting children from all geographic areas and social and economic levels. Black children and those living in poverty and in old, poorly maintained housing were disproportionately affected. Lead has adverse effects on nearly all organ systems in the body. It is especially harmful to the developing brains and nervous systems of children under the age of 6 years. At very high blood lead levels, children can have severe brain damage or even die. While this damage can be minimized if a child's lead exposure is reduced, it cannot be reversed. A child is considered to be lead-poisoned at a blood lead level of 10 µg/dL or greater.

In 1990, five states had comprehensive lead poisoning prevention laws; by 2010, 23 states, including Iowa, had such laws. Between 1991 and 2004 the percentage of Iowa children tested for lead poisoning had increased from 26 percent to 97.7 percent. Since

2008, Iowa law has required that all children have a blood lead test when enrolling in kindergarten. Approximately 100,000 blood lead test results were reported to IDPH in 2010 (both positive and negative results are reported).

The prevalence of lead poisoning among Iowa children (under the age of 6 years) is 4.3 percent. This is approximately seven times higher than the national average of 0.6 percent.

Iowa's children are most commonly poisoned by lead-based paint found in homes built before 1950. Lead-based paint in a home becomes a hazard as it deteriorates and lead-based paint chips end up on the floors and in window wells throughout the home, as well as in the soil around the exterior of a home.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

SAVE THE DATE: CADE's annual Fall Epi Update has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2011 in Des Moines. Additional details will be published in future issues of the EPI Update.

Iowa Healthcare Collaborative 8th Annual Conference on Quality, Patient Safety, and Value on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at Meadows Conference Center at Prairie Meadows in Altoona.

Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) Hospital Learning Community (HLC) Conference on Thursday, September 1, at the Meadows Conference Center at Prairie Meadows in Altoona.

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

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