

EPI Update for Friday, October 14, 2011
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **National *Listeria* outbreak update**
- **Testing algorithm for the 2011-2012 influenza season**
- **Making sense of influenza vaccination options**
- **West Nile virus update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

National *Listeria* outbreak update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are still investigating a multistate outbreak of listeriosis in coordination with state and local health departments. So far, 116 persons from 25 states have been infected with an outbreak-associated strain of *Listeria monocytogenes*. Colorado has the highest number of known cases with 34. One case has been reported in Iowa. The CDC continues to recommend that consumers not eat Rocky Ford-brand cantaloupe from Jensen farms. This is especially important for older adults, persons with weakened immune systems, and pregnant women.

For melons not part of this recall, FDA has this general advice for melon safety:

- Consumers and food preparers should wash their hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds *before* and *after* handling any whole melon, such as cantaloupe, watermelon, or honeydew.
- Scrub the surface of melons, such as cantaloupes, with a clean produce brush or dish cloth and dry them with a clean cloth or paper towel before cutting.
- Cut melon should be promptly consumed or refrigerated at or less than 40 degrees F (32-34 degrees F is best) for no more than seven days.
- Cut melons left at room temperature for more than four hours should be discarded.

For more information, visit <http://cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/index.html>.

Testing algorithm for the 2011-2012 influenza season

- Laboratories using rapid antigen tests should send all positives to the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) until three positive tests are confirmed by RT-PCR (or until SHL instructs otherwise).
- Labs using molecular testing for influenza A or B should send ONE positive specimen to SHL each week for strain identification.

To view the entire testing algorithm visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=1C084819-7B8E-4647-8FF5-24BAE9280A08.

Making sense of influenza vaccination options

Multiple influenza vaccines are expected to be available during the 2011–12 season, including a new intradermally administered flu shot preparation, Fluzone Intradermal (Sanofi Pasteur), which was licensed in May 2011.

There are two types of vaccines:

- A. The “flu shot”, which is an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is given with a needle, usually in the arm. There are three different flu shots available:
1. a regular flu shot approved for people ages 6 months and older,
 2. a high-dose flu shot approved for people 65 and older, and
 3. the new intradermal flu shot approved for people 18 through 64 years of age.

The age indications for the different flu shots vary, but all may be given to people with chronic medical conditions.

- B. The nasal-spray flu vaccine — a vaccine made with live, weakened flu viruses that is given as a nasal spray (sometimes called LAIV for “Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine”). The viruses in the nasal spray vaccine do not cause the flu. LAIV is approved for use in healthy people 2 through 49 years of age who are not pregnant.

All influenza vaccines contain the same antigenic composition. There is no preferential recommendation between any of the formulations of TIV or LAIV, but clinicians should note the recommended age groups and possible contraindications for each vaccine.

To access the algorithm for children aged 6 months through 8 years, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=6693CB93-767F-46A3-AA87-32715081D159.

To access administration guidance by age group, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=D0A7772A-2964-4594-98DB-4C27818A5269.

West Nile virus update

So far this year, nine cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Iowa. Most of the cases have occurred in the western Iowa counties impacted by this year’s flooding events. For additional information on West Nile virus, including the current surveillance report, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/WNV.aspx.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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