

EPI Update for Friday, October 21, 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**
- **Please tell me what I've got: *comparing influenza, the cold, and pertussis***
- **Exposures to hazardous drugs used in chemotherapy**
- **It's a Zombie apocalypse! Thank goodness we're prepared!**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

National *Listeria* outbreak update

To date, 123 persons from 26 states have become ill with one of the four outbreak-associated strains of *Listeria monocytogenes*. Five more cases were identified in the past week, including the first reported case in Pennsylvania. Colorado has the highest number of known cases with 34. Only one case has been reported in Iowa.

Listeria contamination can occur in a wide variety of foods including soft cheeses, unpasteurized milk, ready-to-eat deli meats, hot dogs, undercooked poultry, and unwashed raw vegetables. Last week, a voluntary recall of 2,154 cases of bagged salads due to *Listeria* contamination was announced. No cases of illness have been reported related to this recall.

For more information, visit cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/index.html.

Please tell me what I've got: *comparing influenza, the cold, and pertussis*

As the season changes, patients are likely to present with symptoms commonly associated with influenza, the common cold, and pertussis. Please reference the chart at www.IDPH.state.IA.us/adper/common/pdf/flu/flu_colds_Pertussis.pdf for side-by-side comparisons of the symptoms associated with each infection.

Exposures to hazardous drugs used in chemotherapy

Earlier this year, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) performed an investigation of workplace exposures to acrolein, carbon monoxide, and chemotherapy drugs in an inpatient oncology unit. This report contains valuable recommendations on safe handling of drugs used during cancer treatments. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2011-0047-3143.pdf.

It's a Zombie apocalypse! Thank goodness we're prepared!

It's a late night as Julie retires to bed, leaving her husband Todd and their faithful dog Max to watch the news. The anchor reports that several people have been hospitalized with a strange virus that causes slow movement, slurred speech, and violent tendencies. Suddenly, there's a knock at the door. The elderly neighbor, Mrs. Clements, has come to pay a visit... *but she's been turned into a Zombie by this strange virus!*

This is the beginning of the free 40-page, full-color graphic novella, "*Preparedness 101: Zombie Pandemic*". The novella, produced by the CDC, urges readers to become prepared for any disaster (including a zombie apocalypse!). The entertaining publication includes a concise "All-

Hazards Emergency Kit” checklist. To see and download for reading by you, your patients and customers, visit www.cdc.gov/phpr/zombies_novella.htm#.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Presentations from the Disease Epidemiology and Prevention XV (2011 Fall Epi Update) have been posted at www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Default.aspx. Go to bottom of page under *Disease Epidemiology and Prevention XV*.

Have a healthy, happy and frosty week!

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