

**EPI Update for Friday, March 16, 2012**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Pertussis activity continues**
- **Influenza update**
- ***Salmonella* and Easter Chicks and Ducklings**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Pertussis activity continues**

Pertussis activity is continuing, particularly in eastern Iowa. Pertussis testing is available through the State Hygienic Laboratory. Please continue to vaccinate patients to prevent and control pertussis illness in our state.

For more information about pertussis, visit

[www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=35CC8474-C267-4559-B7A1-8782BEB56EE5](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=35CC8474-C267-4559-B7A1-8782BEB56EE5) .

**Influenza update**

Influenza activity is being upgraded from regional activity to widespread. The State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) has identified three seasonal influenza viruses that are currently circulating in Iowa - influenza A (H3), influenza A (2009 H1N1) and influenza B. All three strains are well matched with this year's influenza vaccine. Iowans who have not yet gotten their seasonal influenza shot should be advised to do so. For more information on influenza surveillance, visit

[www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports).

Thank you to all of the laboratories who have been submitting specimens to SHL, it is enabling better tracking of influenza incidence in Iowa. SHL encourages labs to continue to submit their rapid test positive influenza specimens from outpatients for confirmation. Labs are also encouraged to submit specimens from patients that are hospitalized with influenza-like illness, regardless of the rapid test result. For questions on specimen submission and testing, call 319-335-4500 or visit

[www.shl.uiowa.edu/services/influenza](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/services/influenza).

***Salmonella* and Easter Chicks and Ducklings**

Outbreaks of *Salmonella* infections have been linked to exposure to baby chicks and ducklings. Many of these outbreaks have occurred during spring, particularly around Easter. Children are most susceptible to infection because they are more likely than others to put their fingers into their mouths and because their immune systems are still developing. Others at increased risk include persons with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, the elderly and other immunocompromised persons. Whether your patients raise chicks or ducklings as a source of food or keep them as pets, recommend the following measures to protect them and their families from illness:

- Do not let children under age 5 or others at high risk handle poultry or items contaminated by poultry.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling poultry or their droppings.
- Do not eat or drink around poultry or their living areas.
- Do not let poultry live inside your home.
- Do not wash the birds' food and water dishes in the kitchen sink.

For more information visit, [www.cdc.gov/healthypets/easter\\_chicks.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/easter_chicks.htm).

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

[Health Literacy Iowa](#) and New Readers of Iowa will host [Health Literacy in Iowa: Partnering to Change Research into Action](#) on April 13-14, 2012. The event in Des Moines is an important part of Iowa's response to the [National Action Plan to Improve Health Literacy](#). It is designed to generate health literacy-based action by mobilizing, catalyzing, modeling, and disseminating health literacy work throughout the state. The conference is intended for health care providers, public health professionals, health care educators, adult literacy and literacy professionals, adult learners, researchers, librarians, students, educators, insurers/payers, employers, and policy-makers.

For more information, visit [www.HealthLiteracyIowa.org](http://www.HealthLiteracyIowa.org) and click on "Community Education."

### **Have a healthy and warm week!**

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