

EPI Update for Friday, July 13, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)**
- **Hand, foot and mouth disease**
- **Single dose/single use vials**
- **Friggatriskaidekaphobia – the fear of Friday the 13th**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)

CRE are difficult-to-treat bacteria because of high levels of resistance to commonly used antibiotics. Recently, CDC announced the release of its *2012 CRE Toolkit, Guidance for the Control of Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)*, which expands on previous guidance. For additional information, visit www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/cre-toolkit/index.html.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

Hand, Foot and Mouth (HFMD) disease is a viral infection caused by enteroviruses, usually coxsackievirus A16, and is typically seen in children age <5 years old. Outbreaks usually occur during summer and fall and typical symptoms include a mild fever with rash (usually on the palms of the hand and soles of the feet), and sores in the mouth.

HFMD is not a reportable disease; however, cultures and outbreaks caused by any pathogen should be reported to the Iowa Department of Public Health. Serious illness or atypical presentations of possible HFMD can be tested by sending a lesion swab to the State Hygienic Lab. SHL will culture the virus and serotype it to determine which strain is circulating for diagnosis, and public health and surveillance purposes.

Single dose/single use vials

Medications labeled as "single dose" or "single use" are typically preservative-free and should be dedicated for single patient use to protect patients from infection risks. Life-threatening infections can and do occur when medications from single dose/single use vials are used for multiple patients. Reports of infections were just published by the CDC at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6127a1.htm?s_cid=mm6127a1_w. Infection safety guidelines are available at www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/.

Friggatriskaidekaphobia – the fear of Friday the 13th

Though this is not really an acute disease issue, it does fall into the realm of mental health...

Etymology:

Frigga – Norse goddess for whom Friday is named

Triskaidecka – Ancient Greek: treis (“three”)-kai (“and”)-deka (“ten”)
Phobia – Ancient Greek: “fear of”

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a happy Friday the 13th and a healthy week!

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