

EPI Update for Friday, July 27, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Investigation of *Salmonella* Blockley**
- **False positive test for hepatitis A**
- **Hepatitis A cluster**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Investigation of *Salmonella* Blockley

This week IDPH, along with the State Hygienic Laboratory, identified four patients infected with a rare type of *Salmonella*. These patients have all recovered. Working with local public health, a common restaurant exposure was identified and this information was shared with the Department of Inspections and Appeals. At this time, no new cases have been reported.

Salmonella Blockley is a rare serogroup that was first described in the United States and Europe in 1955. Since then, the strain has been associated with investigations in Southeast Asia and Europe. Research on this serogroup has shown some strains have high resistance rates to kanamycin, streptomycin, tetracycline, chloramphenicol and naladixic acid.

We appreciate that the healthcare providers and patients submitted stool specimens and recognize SHL for their efforts in identifying this rare strain.

False positive test for hepatitis A

This week presented another example of the importance of confirmatory testing. A worker at a popular restaurant tested positive for hepatitis A IgM. Symptoms were somewhat consistent with hepatitis, but did not include jaundice. Liver enzyme tests were slightly elevated, but not what would be expected during the acute phase of infection. Because of the concern that hundreds of restaurant goers might have been exposed to hepatitis A and the potential need for mass vaccination, the worker's blood was redrawn for very sensitive and specific confirmatory testing at SHL. This test came back negative for hepatitis A IgM.

IDPH and other health departments around the county receive many false positive hepatitis A IgM tests. If a patient presents with inconsistent or confusing symptoms and a questionable positive IgM test, please consult with IDPH or SHL about the need for confirmatory testing. For more information, see www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5418a1.htm.

Hepatitis A cluster

Three cases of Hepatitis A were reported over the last several weeks from one Iowa county. Two of these cases were hospitalized, and have since recovered. Local public health investigated and the only link between the cases was that family members

participated in sports together.

The Immunization program at IDPH provided Hepatitis A vaccine and local public health worked long hours to immunize and educate persons potentially exposed. Local public health also worked with healthcare providers in their county to heighten surveillance for cases of Hepatitis A. To date, no additional cases have been identified.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Save the Date: The Extension Training Program for Infection Prevention will be held September 24-28, 2012, in Iowa City. This training is designed for Infection Prevention and Control Professionals. To register, contact Martha Freeman with the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics at 319-356-1742.

Have a happy and healthy week!!

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