

EPI Update for Friday, August 31, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Updates on current issues**
- **Back to school diseases**

Updates on current issues

West Nile virus: In the U.S., West Nile virus cases are up 40 percent since last week, and are on pace to rival the record years of 2002 and 2003. The CDC has confirmed 1,590 cases of the mosquito-borne disease and 66 deaths nationwide so far this year. Iowa has confirmed seven cases thus far, which is consistent with activity in recent years. See the current Iowa West Nile virus report at

www.idph.state.ia.us/CADE/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=West%20Nile%20Virus#8D14B965-C165-4D1A-A68F-0751C6558431.

Salmonella in cantaloupe: On August 22nd, the FDA announced a recall of cantaloupes originating from Chamberlain Farms Produce, Inc. in Indiana. Samples of cantaloupe collected at Chamberlain Farms showed the presence of *Salmonella* Typhimurim that matched the strain that sickened 178 people in 21 states. Seven Iowans have become ill with a similar strain of *Salmonella*, but not all report eating cantaloupes. For more information, see

www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/.

Salmonella in mangos: A total of 105 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Braenderup have been reported from 16 states since July 1, 2012: California (80), Delaware (1), Hawaii (3), Idaho (1), Illinois (1), Louisiana (1), Maine (1), Michigan (1), Montana (1), Nebraska (1), New Jersey (1), New York (3), Oregon (1), Texas (2), Washington (6), and Wisconsin (1) and 25 ill persons have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported. The investigation indicates that mangoes are a likely source of this outbreak. Consumers who recently purchased recalled Daniella brand mangoes distributed by Splendid Products are advised not to eat them, and to discard any remaining recalled mangoes. For more information, visit

www.cdc.gov/salmonella/braenderup-08-12/index.html.

Rabies: The Iowa bat season is underway and as expected, the number of bat-related rabies calls has increased. In August and September the number of interactions between humans and bats typically increase because of bat migration and increased mobility and traveling of young bat pups. So far in 2012, 11 rabid bats have been reported to IDPH. There have been no human rabies cases. Since bat bites can be visibly undetectable, if a bat exposure may have occurred, the bat should be captured and tested for rabies. If a bat is found in the same room as an unattended child, a sleeping person, or anyone who cannot reliably know that they were not bitten, this is considered a potential bat exposure and the bat should be caught and tested. There is a common misconception that bats in homes cannot be killed. This is not true. If you have been exposed to a bat in your home, you may kill it in order to have it tested for rabies. This will help determine if you need to get the rabies shots. For more information, see

www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Rabies. To see where animal rabies cases have been reported in Iowa, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=BAFE62E0-CF42-4D51-9FBD-AA4E4D286108.

Back to school

Schools are now in full swing and kids are heading off each day to listen intently to their teachers and reunite with classmates. School attendance brings questions about some infectious diseases and infestations.

Pertussis: Currently 1040 cases have been reported in Iowa and now that school has begun, the potential for further spread among children has increased. Children diagnosed with pertussis should stay home up to 21 days after the cough starts, or until after receiving appropriate antimicrobial therapy for five days. For more information on pertussis and to view the current pertussis surveillance report, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/CADE/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Pertussis.

Norovirus: This spreads easily when children ill with diarrhea and vomiting are at school. Symptoms of norovirus include stomach pain, diarrhea and vomiting. If a student experiences those symptoms they should be kept home from school or sent home from school. If this occurs at the school, proper hand washing should be reinforced and appropriate environmental cleaning should be done quickly to help prevent further spread. For more information on norovirus, see www.idph.state.ia.us/CADE/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Norovirus.

Head lice: IDPH recommends that parents carefully check their children for head lice before sending back to school this fall. If found on a child already at school, the child may remain at school that day, but should start treatment before returning to school the next day. For more information see www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=736B8D9D-64A7-49AF-9ED1-6AC00421C1FB.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a happy and healthy Labor Day weekend!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

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