

EPI Update for Friday, November 2, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Laboratories asked to send influenza specimens to SHL**
- **Ameridose recalls all products**
- **Antacids can reduce stomach acid defenses against bacteria**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Laboratories asked to send influenza specimens to SHL

Influenza incidence is increasing in Iowa and is currently at the "local" level of activity. To help IDPH track influenza within the state, laboratories are asked to send SHL all rapid antigen test positive specimens until three tests are confirmed by RT-PCR at SHL. Labs using molecular testing for influenza A or B are asked to send SHL one positive specimen each week for further characterization. We also ask for specimens from all patients that are hospitalized with influenza-like illness be sent to SHL, regardless of rapid test result. For questions on specimen submission and testing, call 319-335-4500 or visit www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/influenzaalgorithm.pdf.

Ameridose recalls all products

Ameridose has issued a voluntary recall of all products currently in circulation because their sterility cannot be assured. No infections have been associated with these products. The company is under the same management as the New England Compounding Center, whose products have been implicated in the current fungal meningitis outbreak. Ameridose is faxing instructions concerning the recall to all customers known to have received their products. The FDA is **not** currently recommending follow-up with patients who received these products, but asks that health care workers remain vigilant for infections that may be associated with these products. For more information regarding this recall, visit www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm326349.htm.

Antacids can reduce stomach acid defenses against bacteria

More than 60 million Americans suffer from heartburn at least once per month and many take antacids. The stomach normally has a pH of about 2, which assists in digestion. If the pH of the stomach acid is increased (becoming more neutral) by taking antacids or a similar medication, it can increase the risk for acquiring food-borne illnesses (such as *Salmonella* or *Campylobacter*) because bacteria normally would be killed by the acid in the stomach. Thus, those taking medications which increase the pH of the stomach should be extra careful when preparing and handling food.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736