

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

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Please submit suspect VRSA specimens to the State Hygienic Laboratory**
- **Report shows substance abuse treatment works**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Please submit suspect VRSA specimens to the State Hygienic Laboratory

Antibiotic resistance is a pressing public health concern that could compromise the effectiveness of antibiotics. Staphylococcus aureus is an example of a bacterium's ability to develop resistance which may be associated, at least partly, with antibiotic use. Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is now a predominant pathogen treated in healthcare settings. As treatment for MRSA infections increase, the use of Vancomycin increases and the risk for Vancomycin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureas (VRSA) exists.

If clinicians suspect VRSA infection, isolates should be submitted to the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) for confirmatory testing.

For prevention recommendations from the Iowa Antibiotic Resistant Task Force, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/antibiotic_resistance.asp.

November 12th to 18th has been designated as Get Smart About Antibiotics Week. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/getsmart/healthcare/getsmartweek.html.

Report shows substance abuse treatment works

The annual Outcomes Monitoring System (OMS) Report prepared for IDPH by the Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation at the University of Iowa, tracks outcomes of IDPH-funded substance abuse treatment programs statewide. According to the report, 100 percent of those admitted for treatment indicated a primary substance of use. Alcohol was the most common primary substance reported (50 percent), followed by marijuana (26 percent) and methamphetamine (17 percent). Six months following discharge from treatment, nearly half (49 percent) reported they were not using their substance of choice any longer. Of those who did report substance use following discharge, nearly 40 percent reported using their primary substance with less frequency.

Other report findings include an association with abstinence from substance use and children living in the home. Those with children in the home were more likely to remain abstinent from substance use after discharge. Nearly 60 percent of clients reported arrests at admission, compared to fewer than 16 percent at follow-up. There was also a more than two-fold decrease in the number of clients who reported substance-abuse related hospitalizations at follow-up, compared to admission.

To see the entire OMS report, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/common/pdf/substance_abuse/oms_year14.pdf.

For more information on how IDPH addresses substance abuse prevention and treatment in Iowa, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/substance_abuse.asp.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

There will be no Epi Update published next week because of the Thanksgiving holiday; the next edition will be published November 30th.

Have a healthy and happy Thanksgiving!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

800-362-2736