

EPI Update for Friday, December 21, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Tdap in pregnancy (ACIP provisional recommendations)**
- **Influenza and other respiratory viruses update**
- **Occupational carbon monoxide exposure during winter weather**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Tdap in pregnancy (ACIP provisional recommendations)

On October 24, 2012, the ACIP voted to recommend tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) for pregnant women with **every** pregnancy irrespective of previous Tdap history.

To maximize the maternal antibody response and passive antibody transfer to the infant, optimal timing for Tdap administration is between 27 and 36 weeks gestation. For women not previously vaccinated with Tdap, if Tdap is not administered during pregnancy, Tdap should be administered immediately postpartum.

Influenza and other respiratory viruses update

Influenza activity continues to increase and remains widespread in Iowa. The number of influenza associated hospitalizations reported from the sentinel hospitals has doubled in the past week. Children are also being hit hard by influenza; the number of schools reporting flu outbreaks this season is 64, compared to only 10 this time last season.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) activity has increased recently in Iowa, particularly in the central and southern regions; the percentage of positive rapid RSV results this reporting week was twice that of the previous week.

At this time, laboratory testing at SHL via the influenza surveillance system, is also detecting parainfluenza virus types 2 and 3, RSV, rhinovirus and adenovirus. These viruses are co-circulating with influenza viruses A and B. Testing for the specific respiratory virus that the patient is infected with can guide therapy options and infection control practices. The influenza vaccine does NOT protect against these other respiratory viruses.

For more information about influenza, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx. For influenza activity reports, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

Occupational carbon monoxide exposure during winter weather

CO is a common industrial hazard. Workers in industries may have increased exposure during the winter months when work areas are more tightly sealed, portable heaters are in use, and internal combustion engines, such as forklifts, are being used inside.

Chronic and low levels of exposure to CO can impact overall health. Neither workers nor health care providers may suspect carbon monoxide exposure immediately because of the vague symptoms.

The Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) offers 24/7 consultation to the public and physicians on CO poisoning treatment. For more information on CO illness visit, www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/co/ or www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/carbonmonoxide-factsheet.pdf

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health, April 9 – 10, 2013, Scheman Conference Center, Ames, Iowa. For more information, visit www.iowapha.org/Default.aspx?pageId=127969.

Live Healthy Iowa 2013: Begins on January 28 and goes thru April 5, 2013. Registration opens December 19. For more information, visit www.livehealthyiowa.org/.

We wish everyone very happy, healthy and safe holidays!

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