

EPI Update for Friday, February 22, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Influenza update**
- **CDC advisory about Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)**
- **New app for disease detectives**
- **Farewell to Dr. Pentella**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Influenza update

For the past several weeks, major influenza surveillance indicators have been decreasing; however, influenza activity is expected to continue until late March or April. School outbreaks are still occurring around the state. Please continue to promote the use of the Three Cs (Clean hands frequently; Cover coughs and sneezes; and Contain germs by staying home when ill) as the flu activity decreases and remember, it is never too late to vaccinate.

For more information, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=Influenza_General_Public_Fact_Sheet.

CDC advisory about Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)

CREs are untreatable or difficult-to-treat multidrug-resistant organisms emerging in the U.S. Iowa laboratories have identified at least 20 CRE isolates in the last three years.

For more information on the CDC advisory, visit

emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00341.asp.

Information on the prevention of CRE transmission is available at

www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/cre-toolkit/index.html.

New app for disease detectives

New outbreaks happen every day and public health disease detectives are on the front lines, working 24/7 to save lives and protect people. When a new outbreak happens, these public health disease detectives figure out how outbreaks started, and get them controlled or stopped.

In this new app, the user plays the role of an Epidemic Intelligence Service agent, finds clues about outbreaks, and makes tough decisions about what to do next. Do you quarantine the village? Talk to people who are sick? Ask for more lab results? For more information and to download the app, visit www.cdc.gov/features/solvetheoutbreak/.

Farewell to Dr. Pentella

After more than ten years of service, State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) Associate Director, Dr. Mike Pentella, has announced he will be leaving the SHL effective March

8, 2013 to become the director of the Hinton State Laboratory Institute in Massachusetts.

Dr. Pentella's commitment to his work and his staff are immeasurable. His tremendous volume of public health knowledge is leaving a lasting impact on not only SHL and the University of Iowa, but the state and nation as well. We are indebted to his vision and commitment.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

IDPH's Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program *2013 Stakeholder's Webinar* on March 4, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to noon CDT. For more information, visit www1.gotomeeting.com/register/576284097 or contact Kathy Leinenkugel at 800-972-2026 or Kathy.leinenkugel@idph.iowa.gov.

SHL's *The Role of the Laboratory in TB Diagnosis and Management*, Thursday, March 7, 2013 at noon, will include the tests to detect latent and active tuberculosis. Target audience includes laboratorians, physicians, nurses, and public health practitioners. Register by March 4 at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Role_of_Lab_in_TB_Diagnosis_Registration.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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