

EPI Update for Friday, March 1, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Updated recommendations on the use of Tdap for pregnant women**
- **Influenza activity update**
- **New guidelines for the treatment of pediatric middle ear infections**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Updated recommendations on the use of Tdap for pregnant women

The CDC recently announced that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is now recommending that pregnant women receive the Tdap vaccine during every pregnancy. Previously, it was recommended that a pregnant woman receive a dose of Tdap during the latter half of one pregnancy only, but ACIP concluded this may not provide protection to infants born from subsequent pregnancies. High levels of antibodies produced in the weeks after birth are likely to increase protection against pertussis in newborns while the baby is still too young to receive the vaccine.

For the complete recommendation, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6207a4.htm.

Influenza activity update

Influenza activity in Iowa is being downgraded from widespread to regional; however, influenza activity remains high in some regions of the state.

An influenza-associated pediatric mortality has been reported. This is the first case reported this season in Iowa. A total of 78 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in the United States this season. Children, especially those under 5 years of age, are at increased risk of developing severe influenza complications.

Iowans are encouraged to continue to take personal actions to prevent the spread of illness. Remember the 3Cs: Cover your coughs and sneezes; Clean your hands frequently; and Contain germs by staying home when ill. In addition, it is never too late to vaccinate.

For the most recent flu activity report, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

New guidelines for the treatment of pediatric middle ear infections

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently released updated guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of middle ear infections. Among the changes are new recommendations on when to treat middle ear infections with antibiotics versus when to observe and follow-up. The guidelines also make recommendations on what antibiotics should be used when treatment is required.

Proper use of antibiotics can slow the development of antibiotic resistance, helping ensure that future infections that do require antibiotic treatment will remain susceptible.

For more information on the new guidelines, visit

pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2013/02/20/peds.2012-3488.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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