

EPI Update for Friday, March 29, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **The risk of autism is not increased by 'too many vaccines too soon'**
- **Norovirus: leading cause of children with diarrhea seeking health care**
- **Pertussis update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

The risk of autism is not increased by 'too many vaccines too soon'

A study released today demonstrated that the amount of antigens from vaccines received in a single day or in a short time span was not associated with autism. The study found that the total amount of antigens from vaccines received was the same between children with autism and those who did not have autism. The study helps support previous findings that there is no relationship between vaccines and autism. To see study, visit: www.jpeds.com/webfiles/images/journals/ymdp/JPEDSDeStefano.pdf

Norovirus: leading cause of children with diarrhea seeking health care

A recently published study has demonstrated the introduction of rotavirus vaccines has led to a large decrease in the number of cases of acute gastroenteritis due to rotavirus. As a result, norovirus has become the leading cause of acute gastroenteritis among children seeking medical care in the U.S.

Over 20 percent of children seeking care for acute gastroenteritis were infected with norovirus as opposed to 12 percent infected with rotavirus. Nationally, it is estimated that nearly one million child health care visits are due to norovirus each year. To read more about the study, visit

www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1206589?query=featured_gastroenterology.

Pertussis update

The number of pertussis cases reported in Iowa this year is lower than this time last year. Pockets of activity remain throughout the state, however, and the number of reported cases is still above Iowa's five-year average. For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/CADE/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Pertussis.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Events in conjunction with the Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health (April 9th and 10th):

- 1) IPHA's pre-conference workshop, "*Quality Improvement in Iowa's Public Health System: Connecting QI to Health Reform and Modernization*," will be held April 8th at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames. For more information, visit www.iowapha.org/Events?eventId=650108&EventViewMode=EventDetails.
- 2) ISU is hosting a lecture the evening of April 9th by the authors of "*Zoobiquity: Connecting Health in Animals and Humans*" which explores how animal and human commonality can be used to diagnose, treat, and heal both animal and

human patients. For more information, visit:

www.event.iastate.edu/event/29159/?channel_id=6&sy=2013&sm=04&sd=01&s=m

Have a healthy and happy, and less snowy week!

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Iowa Department of Public Health

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