

EPI Update for Friday, April 26, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **CADE activity update**
- **Ingesting and aspirating dry cinnamon by children and adolescents**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

CADE activity update

Spring represents a transitional period between classic winter and summer diseases. As expected, norovirus and influenza activity has decreased, though both continue to cause illnesses in Iowa. In contrast, rabies consultations have increased in recent weeks. Warmer weather also tends to bring increases in food-borne and vector-borne diseases such as salmonellosis and West Nile virus.

CADE continues to monitor the H7N9 influenza activity in China. While the number of cases in China has increased, no sustained human-to-human transmission has been found. There have been no cases reported in the United States.

Ingesting and aspirating dry cinnamon by children and adolescents

The American Academy of Pediatrics has published a report on the dangers of the "Cinnamon Challenge," which involves attempting to swallow a teaspoon of ground cinnamon without drinking fluids. This challenge is growing in popularity among children and adolescents across the country. Cinnamon is composed of cellulose fibers that do not dissolve or biodegrade. Choking, aspiration and pulmonary damage as a result of this challenge have led to calls to poison control centers, emergency room visits, and hospitalization requiring ventilator support due to collapsed lungs.

For more information, visit:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2013/04/16/peds.2012-3418.full.pdf>.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

The 2013 Iowa Infection Prevention and Control Seminar will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, May 7 and 8 at the Marriott Conference Center in Des Moines.

For more information and to register, visit www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/UIConferences/.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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