

EPI Update for Friday, May 24, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Effective tick repellents**
- **Norovirus testing available**
- **Influenza surveillance report published monthly over the summer**
- **An updated obituary**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Effective tick repellents

With the arrival of tick season, it is important for patients to take the proper steps to prevent tick exposure; this includes the use of effective tick repellents. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the following ingredients are registered as providing protection from ticks:

- Citronella
- p-Menthane-3,8-diol
- DEET
- IR3535
- 2-undecanone
- Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus
- Picaridin

For a complete list of the EPA-registered products that provide protection from ticks, visit

http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/search_results.cfm?Rangetime=&hidSelected=3&ProductName=&Ingredient=null&Company=null&Registration=&Submit=Search.

As duration of protection varies between products and concentrations of ingredients, it is important to choose a product that is appropriate for the individual (activity, water exposure, perspiration, temperature, etc.) and to follow the application instructions on the product label. Other precautions that individuals should consider when using any insect repellent include:

- Read and carefully follow product label directions and precautions.
- Apply repellent sparingly on exposed skin and/or clothing.
- Do not apply repellent near eyes, lips, or mouth.
- Never apply repellents over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
- Avoid using sprays in enclosed areas.
- Do not use repellents near food.
- Do not apply repellent to the hands of young children.
- Do not allow young children to apply repellent themselves.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and warm water.
- Avoid over application. Heavy application is not necessary to achieve protection.
- Wash treated clothing before wearing again.

Other EPA information and recommendations regarding insect repellents can be found at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/>.

Norovirus testing available

Norovirus activity occurs year-round and outbreaks are continuing to be reported. IDPH and local public health partners have investigated multiple norovirus outbreaks in recent months during which several people have been hospitalized. Although norovirus is the leading cause of acute gastroenteritis, especially in outbreak settings, hospitalized patients are frequently not initially tested for norovirus. Routine stool cultures are not able to detect norovirus. Currently, only SHL has the ability to perform norovirus testing of stool in Iowa. For additional information on testing,

visit <http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/entericcollectioninstructions.pdf>

Influenza surveillance report published monthly over the summer

Influenza activity remains sporadic in Iowa. Over the summer months, the influenza surveillance reports will be published monthly. This week's report will be the last weekly report published and weekly reports will resume in October. IDPH would like to thank all the sites that have and continue to report data to the Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network.

An updated obituary

John Snow, a hero to public health practitioners everywhere, died in 1858. On April 13, 2013, The Lancet published an updated obituary "to correct, after an unduly prolonged period of reflection, an impression that it may have given in its obituary of Dr. John Snow on June 26, 1858." See [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)60830-2/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(13)60830-2/fulltext).

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Registration is now open for the 2013 Iowa Immunization Conference, which will take place June 12 and 13 at Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in Des Moines. For more information and to register, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=ImmHome.

The 2013 Annual CSTE Conference will be held June 9 through 13 in Pasadena, CA. For more information, visit cste.confex.com/cste/2013/late/cfp.cgi.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy week!

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