

**EPI Update for Friday, January 24, 2014
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Laboratory-acquired Brucellosis after high risk exposure**
- **CDC's 2013 Prevention Status Reports released**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Laboratory-acquired Brucellosis after high risk exposure

In June, 81 persons were exposed to *Brucella melitensis* during workup of a bacterial isolate in a clinical laboratory (not in Iowa). These workers were classified as high-risk for exposure because they were nearby when the *Brucella* isolate was vortexed in an open tube on an open bench. Serological monitoring and symptom watch were recommended and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) was offered to all exposed. Of the 22 persons with high risk exposures but who declined PEP, one worker (who was within a 5 foot radius of the vortexing) became ill 12 weeks later with weight loss, headache, and night sweats. He tested positive for *Brucella*.

Brucella's low infectious dose and ease of aerosolization contribute to the high risk of exposure occurring in laboratory settings. These exposures most often result from working with specimens outside of class II Biological Safety Cabinets or not using Biosafety Level 3 precautions when the specimens either contain unknown microbes or with known *Brucella* isolates.

If an Iowa laboratory suspects they have isolated *Brucella*, please contact SHL immediately at 319-335-4500 for consultation. For more information about *Brucella* in laboratory settings, visit: www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/laboratories/index.html

CDC's 2013 Prevention Status Reports released

CDC has released the 2013 Prevention Status Reports (PSRs) for all 50 states. The PSRs use a simple, [three-level rating scale—green, yellow, or red](#)—to provide a practical assessment of the status of public health policies and practices in each state. A broad range of health topics are covered including food safety, healthcare-associated infections, and HIV. For more information on the PSRs, visit: www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/psr/.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy (and warmer) week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736