

EPI Update for Friday, February 14, 2014
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Influenza activity update**
- **Fatal case of hantavirus reported in Iowa**
- **Influenza vaccination success**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Influenza activity update

Overall influenza activity in Iowa has decreased from widespread to regional; however, flu activity remains high in some regions of the state. For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx

Fatal case of hantavirus reported in Iowa

A fatal case of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), occurring in a middle-aged male with known exposure to mice, was recently reported. This is the 10th case of hantavirus reported in Iowa since the disease was first recognized in the late 1990's. Early symptoms of HPS are non-specific and include fever, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, diarrhea, and vomiting. Late symptoms appear four to ten days after onset and can include coughing, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing. In Iowa, laboratory testing is available through the State Hygienic Laboratory. While there is no specific treatment for HPS, early detection and supportive care can reduce the risk of severe disease and death.

The virus is carried by rodents, and is shed in their urine, droppings, and saliva. Humans are usually infected by breathing in dust created in mice infested areas such as cabins and barns. It is important to keep homes, barns and other workplaces as rodent-free as possible. For more information on hantavirus, visit: www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/

Influenza vaccination success

Getting a flu vaccination each year is the best way to prevent influenza and its complications. Data in Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS), shows the number of Iowans receiving an annual flu vaccine is increasing. During the 2012-13 influenza season more than 517,000 doses of flu vaccine were reported in IRIS; so far this season over 621,000 vaccinations have been reported.

Also, the number of children (aged 6 months through 18 years) vaccinated for influenza have risen steadily since the 2003-04 season, when 66,955 pediatric flu vaccinations were reported in IRIS. IRIS data for 2012-13, showed more than 215,700 vaccinations were reported; a 322% increase.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Stopping Norovirus in its Tracks – What Every Clinician Should Know, a CDC web-based training. For more information visit:

emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_011713.asp

Have a healthy and happy week and Valentine's Day!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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