

EPI Update for Friday, February 28, 2014
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Influenza update**
- **Flu vaccine efficacy**
- **California paralysis cases**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Influenza update

Influenza activity in Iowa is being downgraded from regional activity to local; therefore, the weekly IDPH flu report will only report statewide activity. For the weekly flu report, please visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/idpharchive/archive.aspx?channel=flureports

Flu vaccine efficacy

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the seasonal influenza vaccine for 2013-2014 so far is outperforming vaccine from last season in protecting people from influenza. That news is especially important for young and middle-aged adults who post the lowest influenza vaccination rates of all Americans and account for most of the flu-related hospitalizations this season.

The seasonal vaccine is reducing a vaccinated person's risk of needing to see a clinician for influenza illness by 61% compared with an effectiveness rate of 51% in the 2012-2013 flu season. For more information, please visit:

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6307a1.htm?s_cid=mm6307a1_w

California paralysis cases

Recent reports of polio-like syndrome affecting children in California have caused concern. At least five children, aged 2 to 16, have presented with acute onset of flaccid paralysis affecting one or more limbs that reached peak severity within 48 hours of onset.

So far, two cases have tested positive for enterovirus-68, a rare virus that has been associated with polio-like illness in the past. Although the disorder looks clinically like polio, polio itself has been ruled out since all of the children involved have good antibody protection against polio.

No connections have been made between the known cases, except their symptoms. For more information, visit: www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/02/puzzling-polio-illness-reported-5-california-children

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Great Plains Emerging Infectious Diseases Conference (GPEID)

The GPEID Conference highlights basic, applied, epidemiological, and translational research in biomedical and veterinary disciplines.

- April 18-19, 2014
- The University of Iowa College of Public Health, Iowa City, Iowa
- For more details, visit: <http://cph.uiowa.edu/epi/gpeid/>

2014 Iowa School Nurse Organization Conference

“Data Driven Decisions (3D) in School Nursing”

Pre-conference (2 different options) – April 2, 2014

Conference (2 full days) – April 3-4, 2014

Creative Endeavors and Wine/Food Reception – April 3, 2014 (evening)

Location: Cedar Rapids Marriott

For additional detail and to register, visit: www.isno.org

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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