

**EPI Update for Friday, April 25th, 2014**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Medical Preparedness for Anhydrous Ammonia Exposures**
- **Multistate Outbreak of Human *Salmonella* Cotham Infections Linked to Contact with Pet Bearded Dragons**
- **National Infant Immunization Week**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Medical Preparedness for Anhydrous Ammonia Exposures**

The University of Iowa Burn Treatment Center recently reported a higher-than-normal number of patients suffering from anhydrous ammonia burns this spring. Medical providers and first responders can prepare for an ammonia release in their community by reviewing or updating their local response protocols. You can refer to the IDPH Toxicology Manual at

[www.idph.state.ia.us/idph\\_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphToxicologyManual](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphToxicologyManual)

or the CDC/ATSDR Medical Management Guidelines for Ammonia at

[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/MMG/MMG.asp?id=7&tid=2](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/MMG/MMG.asp?id=7&tid=2)

The Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center is available for consultation at 800-222-1222.

References to share with farmers include:

ISU Extension: [www.extension.org/pages/63196/anhydrous-ammonia-safety](http://www.extension.org/pages/63196/anhydrous-ammonia-safety)

North Dakota State University: [www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ageng/safety/ae1149.pdf](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ageng/safety/ae1149.pdf)

**Multistate Outbreak of Human *Salmonella* Cotham Infections Linked to Contact with Pet Bearded Dragons**

CDC is collaborating with public health, veterinary, and agriculture officials in many states and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate an outbreak of *Salmonella* Cotham infections linked to contact with pet bearded dragons purchased from multiple stores in different states. As of April 21, 2014, a total of 132 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Cotham have been reported from 31 states since February 21, 2012. The majority of cases reside in California, Wisconsin and New York. Iowa does not yet have any cases that are part of this outbreak. *Salmonella* Cotham is a rare serotype and represents only 0.01% of all human isolates in the United States since 1963. Providers should remind pet reptile owners to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching reptiles or anything in the area where they live and roam. CDC offers further advice to pet reptile owners which can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/cotham-04-14/advice-pet-owners.html>

**National Infant Immunization Week – April 26 - May 3**

Saturday April 26 through Saturday May 3 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Infant Immunization Week. Every year thousands of children in the U.S. become ill from diseases that could have been prevented by childhood immunizations. Routine childhood immunization in one birth cohort prevents about 20 million cases of disease and about 42,000 deaths. It also saves about \$13.5 billion in direct costs. Ensure all children are fully protected from vaccine preventable diseases through immunization. Providers can use this week as an impetus to review all infant records for missed opportunities to vaccinate and recall patients who are overdue for routine immunizations.

To learn more or to obtain promotional materials go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/overview.html>

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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