

EPI Update for Friday, June 20, 2014
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Chikungunya cases increase in U.S. travelers**
- **Flooding and health concerns**
- **Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Chikungunya cases increase in U.S. travelers

In late 2013, the first local transmission of chikungunya virus in the Americas was reported in some Caribbean countries and territories. As of June 2014, 56 chikungunya cases have been identified in travelers returning from affected areas in the Caribbean. To date, no local transmission has been identified in the continental United States. No cases have been reported in Iowa.

With the recent outbreaks in the Caribbean and the Pacific, the number of chikungunya cases among travelers visiting or returning to the United States from affected areas is expected to increase. Providers are encouraged to consider chikungunya virus infection in patients with acute onset of fever, multiple joint pain, and who report recent travel to the Caribbean. Report suspected cases to IDPH (who will assist in coordinating testing through the CDC).

For more information on chikungunya, visit: www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/.

Flooding and health concerns

Health concerns related to heavy rainfall, flash flooding and exposure to flood waters include:

- Skin and tissue infections following superficial cuts, scratches, abrasions, or insect bites.
- Deep tissue infections following puncture wounds or trauma.
- Gastrointestinal illnesses following ingestion of contaminated water or food.

Flooding and exposure to flood waters does not increase the risk for tetanus, however cleaning up after a flood may increase the risk of wounds that may require tetanus prophylactic treatment. Health care providers should always ensure that all patients are up-to-date with their vaccinations, including tetanus.

- Adults should receive a booster dose of tetanus and diphtheria-containing vaccine every 10 years. Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine is recommended once as an adult as it also protects against pertussis or whooping cough. (Pregnant women are recommended to receive a Tdap with every pregnancy.)
- Children need a basic series of four doses of vaccine between 2 and 18 months of age, as well as booster doses at 4 to 6 years and 11 to 12 years of age.

Flood waters that cover the well head of a private well can contaminate the well and make it unsafe to use. If a private water well is flooded:

- Do not drink or cook with water from flooded wells until it is properly disinfected and tested for drinking safety.
- Contact the local county health department or extension service for advice on proper disinfection and how to collect and submit a water sample for testing.

For additional information related to disinfecting and testing private water wells, visit:
www.shl.uiowa.edu/env/privatewell/ordering.xml.

Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update

The new issue of the Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update is available by visiting www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/ and scrolling down to 'Reports.' This month's issue can also be accessed directly at www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=D3B62778-4470-47D4-A520-19B89E6DE1DB.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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