

**EPI Update for Friday, August 1, 2014**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Cyclospora cycles back to Texas**
- **Ebola outbreak in West Africa breaks record**
- **Mosquito-borne viruses bite early**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Cyclospora cycles back to Texas**

Last year's nationwide cyclosporiasis outbreak may be a thing of the past for some states like Iowa, but not Texas. The Lone Star state's claim that everything is bigger within its borders holds true for case counts as well. The gut wrenching illness is back in Texas with over 100 cases. Overall, 10 states have notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of more than 200 cyclosporiasis cases since January. Not to be left out of the action, Maine leaves last year's sidelines to join this year's case counts. Last year's second place finisher in total case counts, Iowa, has managed to curb the illness so far. No food item has been identified as the cause and links have not been established for cases occurring in different areas, but investigations continue.

Cyclosporiasis is an long duration diarrheal illness usually caused by consuming food or water contaminated with the microscopic parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. For more information about cyclosporiasis, visit [www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/).

**Ebola outbreak in West Africa breaks record**

WHO reported 1,201 cases and 672 deaths associated with Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone since July 23. This is the largest outbreak of Ebola since the deadly virus was identified, and its first appearance in West Africa. Two U.S. citizens working in Liberia are confirmed to be infected with the Ebola virus. No Ebola cases have yet been reported in the United States (however ill Americans have been evacuated to the U.S.).

The symptoms of Ebola include sudden fever and weakness, as well as muscle pain, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea. In this outbreak, it is estimated about 55 to 60 percent of confirmed patients die. Ebola is transmitted easily from human to human via direct contact with blood or body fluids, or exposure to objects contaminated with infected blood or body fluids. It is caused by a virus of the family *Filoviridae*, genus *Ebolavirus*, and.

Healthcare providers who need to test a patient (with travel history to affected areas) for Ebola should call IDPH at 800-362-2736. IDPH and SHL will coordinate specimen collection and transport to CDC for testing.

For more information about Ebola, visit [www.cdc.gov/ebola/](http://www.cdc.gov/ebola/).

**Mosquito-borne viruses bite early**

Reports of West Nile illness in Iowa are continuing to occur. Three counties, Clay, Monona and Woodbury, have reported one case each of West Nile virus, and mosquitoes in Story County were found to be carrying this virus. Several more potential cases are being investigated.

For more information visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=West Nile Virus](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=West+Nile+Virus).

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

*Extension Training Program for Infection Prevention:* September 22-26 at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, Iowa City. This five-day intensive program provides information relevant to infection prevention and control professionals. Early registration is available until September 5. For more information, call 319-356-1742.

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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800-362-2736