

EPI Update for Friday, October 31 2014
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Influenza activity low in Iowa, but two strains circulating**
- **Winter viruses other than influenza**
- **Ebola update**
- **The best treat of all**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Influenza activity low in Iowa, but two strains circulating

Surveillance by the IDPH Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network (IISN) shows that while flu activity in the state is slowly increasing, there already are two strains of the virus circulating - A(H3) and a B. This may be an indication that this season will be more severe than seen in recent influenza seasons.

IDPH and CDC recommend annual influenza vaccinations for everyone 6 months of age and older. Last year, less than half of Iowa adults (47 percent) and only 55 percent of Iowa's children were vaccinated. It's especially for pregnant women be vaccinated, not only to protect themselves during pregnancy, but to pass on immunity to their newborn.

For more information about where and what kind of influenza is in Iowa, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx?pg=FluHome.

Winter viruses other than influenza

This winter, viruses other than influenza will be circulating in Iowa, causing respiratory illnesses - including rhinovirus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), enterovirus, parainfluenza, adenovirus, and human metapneumovirus (hMPV). While there are no vaccines for these viruses, covering coughs, cleaning hands, and containing ill people at home (the three C's) are important to stop their spread.

Last winter in Iowa, viruses found just at the influenza surveillance sentinel sites included adenovirus (194 cases), parainfluenza virus type 1 (50), parainfluenza virus type 2 (2), parainfluenza virus type 3 (81), parainfluenza virus type 4 (19), rhinovirus/enterovirus (697), respiratory syncytial virus (348), and human metapneumovirus (191).

For more information on respiratory viruses found in Iowa, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

For more information on influenza and other respiratory viruses, visit www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/other.htm.

Ebola update

There are no cases of Ebola in Iowa. No Iowans are in isolation or quarantine. No persons in Iowa are being tested for Ebola. There are four persons under a public health order to self-monitor. (Updated Sunday October 26, 2014)

IDPH Ebola web page can be found at

www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Ebola%20Outbreak&pg=Ebola%20Outbreak%20Home.

New this week from IDPH:

1. Ebola Briefing – 10 27
www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=409DB08E-2DA5-4376-A724-A60F4626555C
2. Ebola-related Orders: What Do They Mean?
www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=A4818B17-0F0A-4F29-B1E7-20ABE7EE1F77

New this week from CDC

1. Video: Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – October 29
www.medscape.com/viewarticle/833907
2. Updated case counts – October 29
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html
Infographics: Is it Flu or Ebola – October 29
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/is-it-flu-or-ebola.pdf
3. List of all Ebola Q&As – October 28
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/qa.html
4. Fact Sheet: Monitoring Symptoms and Controlling Movement to Stop Spread of Ebola – October 27
www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/fs1027-monitoring-symptoms-controlling-movement.html
5. Interim U.S. Guidance for Monitoring and Movement of Persons with Potential Ebola Virus Exposure – October 27
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html
6. Case Definition for Ebola Virus Disease – Updated October 27
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/case-definition.html
7. Epidemiologic Risk Factors to Consider when Evaluating a Person for Exposure to Ebola Virus – October 27
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/risk-factors-when-evaluating-person-for-exposure.html
8. Outbreak Update – October 25
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/index.html
9. Interim Guidance: EMS Systems & 9-1-1- PSAPs: Management of Patients in the U.S. – Updated October 24
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-emergency-medical-services-systems-911-public-safety-answering-points-management-patients-known-suspected-united-states.html

10. Recommendations for Safely Performing Acute Hemodialysis in Patients with Ebola Virus Disease in U.S Hospitals – October 23

www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-dialysis.html

Ebola-Associated Waste Management – Updated October 22

www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/medical-waste-management.html

The best treat of all

The best treat of all this Halloween is for all “trick or treaters” to return home safely. For tips from CDC on keeping Halloween a safe experience, visit

www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy (and spooky) week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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