

**EPI Update for Friday, March 27, 2015**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Missed opportunities for tetanus post-exposure prophylaxis**
- **Tuberculosis is still a life-threatening problem**
- ***Salmonella* and Easter chicks and ducklings**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Missed opportunities for tetanus post-exposure prophylaxis**

A recent study reviewed 21 tetanus cases reported in California between January 2008 and March 2014. Of the sixteen patients who reported having an acute injury before illness and diagnosis; nine had sought medical care, but only two had received appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Five patients died. Although tetanus is rare, it is a preventable life-threatening disease.

Even minor wounds or abrasions can result in tetanus, so vaccination status should be assessed for all patients with wounds, particularly those considered at increased risk for tetanus:

- older adults
- injection-drug users,
- patients with diabetes,
- patients with chronic wounds

Patients who have completed the three-dose primary tetanus series need

- 1) a booster dose as part of wound management if they have a clean, minor wound and received their last tetanus dose more than 10 years prior to injury, or
- 2) a booster dose if they have a wound that is not clean and minor, and received their last tetanus dose more than five years prior to injury.

Patients with unknown vaccine history or less than 3 doses of vaccine should

- 1) receive one dose of tetanus vaccine immediately as part of routine wound management (and told to complete the tetanus series) and
- 2) receive tetanus immune globulin (TIG) in addition to the tetanus vaccine if their wounds are neither clean nor minor.

For more information on this study, visit

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6409a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6409a2\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6409a2.htm?s_cid=mm6409a2_w).

For more information on tetanus and wound management, visit

[www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/disease/tetanus.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/disease/tetanus.asp) and [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt16-tetanus.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt16-tetanus.pdf).

## **Tuberculosis is still a life-threatening problem**

World TB Day is observed on March 24, commemorating the date in 1882 when Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis (TB).

TB is still a life-threatening problem in the United States, despite the declining number of cases. Anyone can get TB and current efforts to find and treat latent TB infection and TB disease is not sufficient because misdiagnosis of TB still exists and health care professionals (especially in low incident states like Iowa) often do not 'think TB'.

TB cases have declined in Iowa over the last century:

- in the 1940s, Iowa reported an average of 755 TB cases a year.
- But during the last ten years, Iowa averaged only 46 TB cases each year.

For information on TB in Iowa, visit:

[www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/TB.aspx?prog=Tb&pg=TbHome](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/TB.aspx?prog=Tb&pg=TbHome). For additional TB information, visit [www.cdc.gov/tb/](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/).

## **Salmonella and Easter chicks and ducklings**

Outbreaks of *Salmonella* infections have been linked to exposure to baby chicks and ducklings. Many of these outbreaks have occurred during spring, particularly around Easter.

Children are most susceptible to infection because they are more likely than others to put their fingers into their mouths, and because their immune systems are still developing. Others at increased risk include persons with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, the elderly and other immunocompromised persons.

When chicks or ducklings are raised as a source of food or kept as pets, the following are recommended:

- Do not let children under age five or others at high risk for salmonella to handle poultry or items contaminated by poultry.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling poultry or their droppings.
- Do not eat or drink around poultry or their living areas.
- Do not let poultry inside your home.
- Do not wash the birds' food and water dishes in the kitchen sink.

For additional information visit [www.cdc.gov/features/salmonellababybirds/](http://www.cdc.gov/features/salmonellababybirds/).

## **Meeting announcements and training opportunities,**

39<sup>th</sup> Annual Iowa Infection Prevention and Control Seminar, May 5-6, 2015, Des Moines Marriott 700 Grand Ave Des Moines, Iowa. Registration at [UI Center for Conferences](#) or 800-551-9029 and book hotel room at [2015 Infection Control Conference](#). For conference questions contact Martha Freeman 319-356-1742 or [Martha-freeman@uiowa.edu](mailto:Martha-freeman@uiowa.edu) and for registration questions call 800-551-9029 or email [conferences@ui.edu](mailto:conferences@ui.edu).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**  
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