

**EPI Update for Friday, April 17, 2015**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**Items for this week's EPI Update include:**

- **Ticks, ticks, ticks**
- **FDA asks medical providers for help – Lead Poisoning Alert**
- **Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance, Nine States, 1999–2008**
- **Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Ticks, ticks, ticks**

Tick activity generally increases in spring with warmer temperatures, so please encourage those going into forested or bushy areas to start taking measures to prevent tick exposure (such as using DEET insect repellent). Ticks in Iowa can carry several diseases, including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Ehrlichiosis.

For more information on how to prevent tick bites and remove ticks, visit [www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on\\_people.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on_people.html).

For guidelines on the safe use of insect repellants, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/idph\\_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=D EET\\_factsheet](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=D EET_factsheet).

**FDA asks medical providers for help – Lead Poisoning Alert**

The FDA has released a consumer warning regarding a product marketed by a Hong Kong company. Bo Ying Compound, a powdered product marketed for treatment of various ailments (influenza, fever, sneezing and nasal discharge) in infants and children, may contain excessive levels of lead. The product is labeled in Chinese and English and is marketed in retail outlets and online.

The FDA is asking public health officials and medical providers nationwide to warn parents and caregivers not to use Bo Ying Compound, due to the potential risk of lead poisoning. Foreign-born residents from Asian countries are most likely to utilize this product. Iowa has an Asian population of 2.3 percent. If you are aware of this product being used or sold in Iowa, please contact the Iowa Department of Public Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 800-972-2026.

For more information, visit [www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm416220.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm416220.htm).

**Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance, Nine States, 1999–2008**

The Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES) system was operated by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) from January 1991–September 2009 to describe the public health consequences of chemical

releases, and to develop activities aimed at reducing the harm. This collection of surveillance summarize incidents from the nine states (Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin) that participated in HSEES during its last 10 full years of data collection (1999–2008).

During the study period, 57,975 chemical incidents occurred: 41,993 (72 percent) occurred at fixed facilities and 15,981 (28 percent) were transportation-related. The findings in this collection of surveillance summaries underscore the need for educational institutions and the general public to receive more focused outreach. In addition, the select few chemicals and industries that result in numerous incidents can be the focus of prevention activities. For more information, visit

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6402a1.htm?s\\_cid=ss6402a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6402a1.htm?s_cid=ss6402a1_e).

### **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/](http://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=7161B60B-8861-4084-94E0-DC77F82D294F](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=7161B60B-8861-4084-94E0-DC77F82D294F).

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

#### **Agricultural Medicine Course June 8-12, 2015**

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health will host Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals, June 8-12 at the University of Iowa. The course is appropriate for physicians, nurses, veterinarians, graduate students, and anyone interested in the unique safety and health needs of rural and agricultural communities. Topics to be discussed include agricultural injury, pesticide exposures and associated health effects, occupational diseases of the lungs in agricultural settings, livestock production, transportation hazards, behavioral and emotional health, zoonotic disease, ergonomics, cancer among agricultural workers, and many others. Continuing education and academic credits are available.

The Iowa Department of Public Health State Office of Rural Health is providing scholarships to pay the registration fees for two Iowa health care providers to attend the training.

The course brochure and scholarship application are available at <http://cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/education/iowa-ag-med-course>.

Online registration is available at [www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/UIConferences](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/UIConferences).

For more information, contact Kay Mohling at 319-335-4219 or [kay-mohling@uiowa.edu](mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu)

**Save the date: Iowa HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Conference, A New Decade: A Call to Change, June 18-19, 2015 at Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center, Des Moines.**

**Have a healthy and happy week!**  
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