

**EPI Update for Friday, April 24, 2015**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Avian influenza**
- **Measles outbreak in California declared over**
- **Botulism update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Avian influenza**

A high pathogenic strain of avian influenza (H5N2) has been identified in commercial poultry flocks in Iowa and other Midwestern states, and is being spread by waterfowl, gulls, and shorebirds as they migrate. For more information, visit [www.iowaagriculture.gov/avianinfluenza.asp](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/avianinfluenza.asp).

This strain has not caused human illness and is not transmitted via food; thus, the risk to the public health is very low. However, IDPH, in collaboration with local public health partners, is monitoring the workers who had direct contact with the infected birds in accordance with CDC's guidance.

Avian influenza should be considered by health care professionals as a possible diagnosis in patients with influenza-like illness who have had recent contact with sick or dead birds, especially in areas where the virus has been identified. IDPH will coordinate testing at SHL if needed. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/index.htm).

**Measles outbreak in California declared over**

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Karen Smith, Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) declared the California (Disneyland) measles outbreak is over since no new measles cases have been reported for two 21-day incubation periods.

"Government at all levels - federal, state and local – worked together to educate health care providers and the public about potential exposures and the risks of the disease. Prompt investigation of cases, interviewing hundreds of contacts of infected people, vaccinating hundreds of at risk people, and increasing awareness among health care providers about measles, helped to control this outbreak," said Dr. Smith. For more information, visit [www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/NR15-029.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/NR15-029.aspx).

**Botulism update**

Botulism is a rare but serious paralytic illness caused by a nerve toxin produced by *Clostridium botulinum* (rarely by *Clostridium butyricum* or *Clostridium baratii*). There are four main kinds of botulism:

- Foodborne caused by consumption of foods contaminated with botulinum toxin - 15 percent.

- Wound caused by wound infected with *C. botulinum* – 20 percent.
- Infant caused by consumption of botulinum bacteria spores, which grow in the intestine and release toxin – 65 percent.
- Adult intestinal toxemia is a rare kind of botulism similar to infant botulism.

A recent outbreak at potluck lunch at an Ohio church with one death and 26 ill persons, as well as recent infant botulism cases in Iowa, remind us of the continuing risk. A report of an Iowa case of infant botulism caused by *C. baratii* was published last week; to learn more, visit

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6414a8.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6414a8.htm).

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

None

### **Have a healthy and happy (and much greener) week!**

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