

EPI Update for Friday, October 23, 2015
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Mumps update**
- **West Nile virus update**
- **New IDPH and Epi Manual website**
- **Molecular assays for diarrheal pathogens**
- **Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Mumps update

Mumps cases continue to increase, particularly in people who live in Johnson County and have connections to the University of Iowa. Specific actions already taken include:

- Ensuring all students and staff are vaccinated with two doses of MMR.
- Information sent to students and staff on what to do if symptoms occur.
- In one situation with high risk of spread to a specific adult population, the limited recommendation was made for a third dose of MMR. In a second situation with high risk of spread to a different younger specific population, the recommendation was made for quicker administration of the second dose of MMR in young children (to be given as soon as possible, but at least 28 days after first dose).

More information on mumps can be located in the Epi Manual at wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual/Home/CategoryID/98.

Testing for mumps is available at the State Hygienic Lab. Buccal swabs in viral transport media should be sent from patients with symptoms of mumps. For more information on testing, visit www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/vidandpcr/collectioninstructions.pdf.

West Nile virus update

Nine cases of West Nile virus (WNV) have been confirmed in Iowa: one case each in Adams, Dallas, Louisa, Lyon, Mahaska, Plymouth, Polk, Ringgold, and Tama counties (additional cases are being investigated). Mosquitos are at the highest risk of carrying West Nile virus in the late summer and autumn. Prevention includes using insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus when outdoors, and draining standing water to eliminate mosquito breeding areas. Risk for mosquito bites and WNV will continue until the first hard frost. For more information about West Nile virus, visit www.cdc.gov/westnile/.

New IDPH and Epi Manual website

The IDPH website has a new look and the location has changed to idph.iowa.gov/. Visitors to the site will find the same helpful resources and current information.

The Epi Manual online address has also changed to wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual/. The new Epi Manual has a search feature in the upper right corner, next to the magnifying glass icon. Some web browsers such as Mac Safari or older Microsoft Internet Explorer are not compatible with the new Epi Manual. Users may need to upgrade or change their browser to allow full access to the Epi Manual. Browser options include:

- 1) upgrade to Microsoft Internet Explorer 10 browser or above

- windows.microsoft.com/en-us/internet-explorer/download-ie
- 2) use Mozilla Firefox browser www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/
 - 3) use Google Chrome browser www.google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/

For assistance with the new Epi Manual, contact Ngoc Tran at ngoc.tran@idph.iowa.gov.

Molecular assays for diarrheal pathogens

Many diarrheal pathogens are reportable to public health. Some Iowa laboratories are transitioning from conventional culture methods to molecular assays to detect these pathogens. These assays have very high sensitivity and specificity, and provide a more rapid alternative to diagnosis. The number and type of pathogen targets - bacterial, viral, parasitic - varies by manufacturer. The State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) performs culture confirmation, serotyping, and Pulse Field Gel Electrophoresis (i.e. "DNA fingerprinting") for *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Vibrio*, and Shiga Toxin producing *E. coli* (includes *E. coli* O157:H7).

Both for public health surveillance purposes and for linking cases during foodborne outbreaks, it is important that if any of these specific organisms are identified, the laboratory submit to SHL either a bacterial isolate or the original specimen in Cary-Blair or similar transport media for further workup. Timely delivery of these specimens to SHL is essential for recovery of positive organisms associated with this testing and these specimens should never be frozen.

For information pertaining to collecting and shipping specimens for culture confirmation and serotyping, visit SHL's online test menu at www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/clinicaltestmenu.xml and please write "culture confirmation" on the applicable Test Request Form. IDPH reportable diseases are listed at www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/ReportableDiseases.aspx. More information is available from the CDC at www.cdc.gov/foodnet/reports/cidt-questions-and-answers-2015.html.

Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update

The new issue of the Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update is available on our new website. Visit idph.iowa.gov/CADE and scroll down to 'Reports' or access the report directly at idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/79/Reports/Misc/IADMU%20Oct%2015.pdf.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

16th Annual Iowa Public Health Practice Colloquium- Envisioning Public Health & Primary Care in 2030: Exploring Strategies to Create Successful Futures Together; Tuesday, November 17, 2015; will explore public health and primary care driving forces, shaping each and where they may go in the future. To register, visit prepareiowa.training-source.org/16th-annual-iowa-public-health-practice-colloquium-envisioning-public-health-primary-care-2030.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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