

EPI Update for Friday, July 29, 2016
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Updated Zika virus guidance**
- **National increase in acute flaccid myelitis**
- **Pesticide exposure reminder**
- **Infographic: Let's Talk About Pesticides In Your Home**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Updated Zika virus guidance

On July 25, CDC released updated guidance for health care providers caring for pregnant women with possible Zika virus exposure, and for prevention of sexual transmission of Zika. Highlights from the updated guidance documents include:

- All pregnant women should be tested for Zika virus if they have had possible exposure to Zika virus, including sexual exposure.
- Asymptomatic pregnant women NOT living in an area with active Zika virus transmission no longer need to wait two weeks after possible exposure to be tested for Zika virus. If initial testing on specimens collected <2 weeks after possible exposure is negative, additional specimens will need to be collected two to 12 weeks after possible exposure.
- Recommendations for the prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus have been updated to reduce the risk for sexual transmission from both men and women to their sex partners.

Health care providers wanting to test for Zika virus should contact CADE at 800-362-2736. CADE staff will consult with the provider to determine whether the case meets CDC testing criteria, and work with the provider to collect and deliver appropriate specimens to SHL.

For more information on Zika, visit www.cdc.gov/zika. For more information on Zika recommendations and guidance, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/zika_reports.html.

National increase in acute flaccid myelitis

From January 1 through June 30, 2016, CDC received 36 reports of suspected acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) from 20 states. During the same period last year, only eight suspected cases were reported.

In January of this year, IDPH made AFM temporarily reportable, and is encouraging clinicians to be vigilant for cases of AFM in all age groups and report suspect cases to CADE.

The clinical criteria for AFM are:

- an illness with onset of acute focal limb weakness AND
- a magnetic resonance image (MRI) showing spinal cord lesion largely

- restricted to gray matter and spanning one or more spinal segments, OR
- cerebrospinal fluid with pleocytosis (white blood cell count >5 cells/mm³)

Please report any suspect cases to CADE by calling 800-362-2736. For more information on specimen collection and clinical management, please visit www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/index.html.

Pesticide exposure reminder

In the past two weeks in Iowa, at least 45 workers were exposed to pesticides being applied by others using land-based sprayers or aerial application. The EPA estimates that 10,000 to 20,000 physician-diagnosed occupational pesticide poisonings occur each year, including fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, and sanitizers. These included farm workers, road crews, and tower workers.

If someone has inhaled or swallowed a pesticide or gotten it in the eyes or on the skin:

- Call 911 if the person is unconscious, having trouble breathing or having convulsions.
- Call the Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222 to determine the proper first aid or treatment.
- Determine the exact name of the product, the concentration, and the EPA registration number. Provide this information to Poison Control, emergency responders, and medical providers.
- Check the label for appropriate first aid for the product.

Human pesticide exposures resulting in medical signs or symptoms are required to be reported to IDPH. Visit idph.iowa.gov/ehs/reportable-diseases for a report form, call 800-972-2026, or contact the Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222.

Infographic: Let's Talk About Pesticides in Your Home

npic.orst.edu/outreach/pesticideinfographic.pdf

Let's talk about pesticides in your home...

No thanks. I don't use them.

Wait - are you sure? Got a dog? A pool? Ever use bug spray, clean the bathroom, or do yardwork?

Hmm... OK, so what IS a pesticide?

A pesticide is a chemical used to prevent, kill or repel pests. Pests can be insects, mice and other animals, weeds, even some germs!

Pesticide Examples

- Bug repellent
- Pet flea & tick treatments
- Algae killer for pools and fish tanks
- Bathroom mold removal agents
- Weed killers

Really? Is there anything I should know about using pesticides safely?

When not used properly, pesticides can harm people, pets, and the environment. In fact, poison control and NPIC receive over 100,000 pesticide calls each year!

✓ DOs

- Read the label and follow the directions every time you use a pesticide.
- Store pesticides in their original containers, up, away, and out of sight of children and pets.
- Use protective clothing as directed by the product label. Always wash your hands right after using pesticides.

✗ DON'Ts

- Never put pesticides in drinking cups or bottles. Clearly label anything that contains a pesticide.
- Never mix different household pesticides together, unless directed to do so by the label.
- When adding water to pesticides, never use spoons or cups that you use for food.

Got it! Where can I get more information?

npic
NATIONAL PESTICIDE INFORMATION CENTER
1.800.858.7378

For general questions about pesticides, including the potential risk to humans, pets, or the environment, call NPIC at 1-800-858-7378.

POISON HELP
1-800-222-1222

If someone breathes in, swallows, or gets pesticide in the eyes or on the skin, call poison control 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

IPHA Workshop: *Health Literacy – Leveraging Language to Improve Health*, August 19, 2016, 9:00 AM – Noon, Iowa Laboratories Facility, DMACC Ankeny, for public health and healthcare professionals. For more information, visit www.iowapha.org/resources/Documents/FLYER%20IPHA%20-%20Health%20Literacy%20Workshop%2008.19.16.pdf.

Seen on the drive to work (thanks to Iowa DOT):

*The road is
no place for a
Pokémon chase*

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736