

EPI Update for Friday, October 28, 2016
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **First West Nile virus death since 2010**
- **Iowa resident Zika-positive after travel to South Florida**
- **Keep your cider safe**
- **Dental sealant programs: reducing cavities**
- **2014 Ohio measles outbreak among Amish**
- **Infographic: Halloween Safety**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

First West Nile virus death since 2010

October 25, IDPH announced the death of an elderly (81 years of age and older) individual from Northwest Iowa. This is the first death from West Nile virus since 2010 and there were two deaths that year.

Iowans should continue to take the following steps to reduce the risk of WNV:

- Use insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Always read the repellent label and consult with a health care provider if you have questions when using these types of products for children. (For example, DEET should not be used on infants less than 2 months old and oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years old.)
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, shoes, and socks whenever possible outdoors.

The State Hygienic Laboratory has confirmed 33 cases of West Nile virus this year, with several more currently under investigation. This is twice the number of cases that were reported last year at this time. For more information about West Nile virus, visit idph.iowa.gov/cade/disease-information/west-nile-virus.

Iowa resident Zika-positive after travel to South Florida

An Iowa resident has tested positive for Zika virus after travel to Miami, Florida. This is the first Iowan diagnosed with Zika with travel only within the United States. Local mosquito-borne transmission of Zika has been identified in several areas in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Outside of Miami, Florida, no local mosquito-borne spread of Zika has been reported in the continental United States.

For more information about Zika and travel to South Florida, visit www.cdc.gov/zika/intheus/florida-update.html. For more information on Zika cases in Iowa, visit idph.iowa.gov/ehi/zika.

Keep your cider safe

With autumn here, leaves on the trees are changing colors and Iowans are visiting their favorite pumpkin patches and apple orchards. Iowans need to check apple cider labels to ensure the

product is pasteurized. Unpasteurized cider can contain *Cryptosporidium sp.*, *Salmonella sp.*, or *E. coli*, which can cause illness if consumed. Pasteurization of apple cider kills these organisms. Do not assume that because the juice is hot or bottled it is safe to drink. If it is unclear if the apple cider is pasteurized, ask the location owner or operators.

If you may have become ill after consuming food or drink, call the IowaSic hotline at 1-844-IowaSic (4692-742). Specialists at IDPH take foodborne illness complaints at this hotline and ask callers about illness, symptoms, onset and duration, and complete a food history of all foods consumed for the past several days. Illnesses associated with foods purchased or consumed at food establishments are investigated by staff in the Department of Inspection and Appeals' Food and Consumer Safety Bureau.

Dental sealant programs: reducing cavities

Dental sealants are important in preventing cavities among school-age children and nationally, the prevalence of sealants among children aged 6-11 years increased by 12 percent between 1999-2004 and 2011-2014. Despite this progress, about 60 percent of schoolchildren ages 6-11 do not have sealants, even though they can prevent half of cavities for up to four years. Low-income children are 20 percent less likely to have sealants than higher-income children are and are twice as likely to have untreated cavities, putting these children at increased risk for pain, infection, and problems eating, speaking, and learning. If the nearly 7 million low-income children in the U.S. without sealants received them, up to \$300 million in dental treatment costs could be saved.

A survey of Iowa's third grade students in 2016 found that not only does Iowa exceed national children's sealant averages, but also Iowa's low-income children were MORE likely to have sealants (61 percent) than children from high-income families were (59 percent).

CDC recommends the expansion of school-based sealant programs, to provide sealants for children who might not visit traditional dental offices. The Vital Signs MMWR fact sheet and other related information is available at www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns.

2014 Ohio measles outbreak among Amish

In 2014, a large measles outbreak occurred among the Amish in Ohio. Two unvaccinated Amish men developed measles after returning to the U.S. from the Philippines, resulting in 383 cases reported from nine Ohio counties. At the time, vaccination coverage among the affected Amish communities was estimated to be only 14 percent and nearly 90 percent of the cases were unvaccinated.

Public health containment efforts included isolation of case patients, quarantine of susceptible persons, and MMR vaccination of more than 10,000 persons. The spread of measles was limited almost exclusively to the Amish community, and affected approximately 1 percent of the estimated 32,630 persons in these Ohio communities. To view the full article, visit www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa1602295.

Halloween Safety

Did you know?



The most dangerous day of the year for child pedestrians* is **Halloween**

On average, over **2 times** as many child pedestrians die on Halloween compared to other days



Average Deaths per Day



(Laxton, 2012; Sperling, 2012)

Halloween Safety Tips



Costumes should be made of fireproof fabric and include reflectors and bright colors

Costumes should not obstruct vision or movement



Bring flashlights or glow sticks to increase visibility

Adults should accompany children under 12. Children over 12 should go in groups and stick to familiar areas



Always cross at street corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks

Look left-right-left when crossing and keep eye contact with drivers to make sure they see you



Watch out for cars backing out of driveways

Have a safe and happy Halloween!



*A child pedestrian is defined as a pedestrian under 18 for the purposes of this infographic
For more information: childrensafetynetwork.org/infographics/halloween-safety
For our blog post: childrensafetynetwork.org/blog/pedestrian-injuries-true-terror-halloween

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a safe, healthy, and happy Halloween!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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