

EPI Update for Friday, September 8, 2017
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- La Crosse encephalitis virus case identified in Iowa
- CDC's Chicago Quarantine Station
- CDC Vital Signs – Preventing stroke deaths
- Control of the Mumps outbreak at the University of Iowa
- In the news: Backyard chickens carry a hidden risk - *Salmonella*
- Infographic: Don't play chicken with your health
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

La Crosse encephalitis virus case identified in Iowa

The first La Crosse encephalitis virus (LACV) case since 2007 has been identified in Iowa. LACV is a mosquito-borne illness that has been reported from upper Midwestern, mid-Atlantic, and southeastern states. Nationwide, there are about 80-100 LACV cases reported each year. Most persons infected with LACV have no symptoms. Those who become ill experience a fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue. Severe disease (including encephalitis) occurs most commonly in children under age 16. (This is named after La Crosse, Wisconsin – Dr. Quinlisk's hometown.) While LACV cases are rare in Iowa, cases of West Nile virus are reported each year in Iowa.

For information on how to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses and for updated information on vector-borne diseases, visit: idph.iowa.gov/cade/disease-information/west-nile-virus

CDC's Chicago Quarantine Station

In August, one of the officers from CDC's Chicago Quarantine Station visited IDPH. While their office is located at the Chicago O'Hare International Airport, they cover all ports of entry in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Quarantine station staff work closely with law enforcement, public health, and emergency response partners daily to conduct preparedness planning and infectious disease response at ports of entry (for example were very involved in screening travelers for Ebola). The Chicago Quarantine Station also regulates and monitors any importations that may contain organisms that are infectious to humans. They stock botulism anti-toxin, diphtheria anti-toxin, and artesunate (used to treat severe malaria) for release to hospitals throughout the US.

An example of how Iowa worked with the Chicago Quarantine Station: several years ago a college student who – after eating slightly cooked shredded potatoes that had been stored in a sealed package at room temperature - became ill with probable botulism. Once notified by the hospital of the emergency need for botulism anti-toxin, IDPH arranged with the Chicago Quarantine Station to have the anti-toxin put on the next plane to Des Moines. While the flight was supposed to arrive around 9:00 PM, weather related delays resulted in it arriving at 3:00 AM. An IDPH epidemiologist waited at the airport, then collected it from the plane and drove the anti-toxin directly to the hospital where it was immediately administered. The patient was later confirmed to have botulism, and fortunately survived.

For more information about quarantine stations and the services they provide to protect us, visit: www.cdc.gov/quarantine/quarantine-stations-us.html

CDC Vital Signs – Preventing stroke deaths

After decades of decline, progress has slowed in preventing stroke deaths. Almost 800,000 people have a stroke each year, more than 140,000 die and many survivors face disability. About 80% of strokes are preventable. High blood pressure is the single most important treatable risk factor for stroke. Preventing, diagnosing, and controlling it through lifestyle changes and medicine is critical.

When stroke happens, minutes count. Call 911 right away. Health systems can treat strokes fast with better outcome if patients get to the hospital quickly. Reducing stroke risk factors and improving the quality of stroke care are needed to continue the decline in stroke deaths. To view the full vital signs page (infographic format), visit:

www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/stroke/index.html

Control of the mumps outbreak at the University of Iowa

Results of the study on the effectiveness of a third dose of MMR vaccine for mumps outbreak control on the University of Iowa Campus in 2015-2016.

www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1703309?query=featured_home

In the news: Backyard chickens carry a hidden risk - *Salmonella*

www.nytimes.com/2017/09/04/health/backyard-chickens-carry-a-hidden-risk-salmonella.html?mcubz=3

Infographic: Don't play chicken with your health

(infographics are no longer able to be shown in the e-mail. Please click to see)

www.cdc.gov/healthypets/resources/dont-play-chicken-with-your-health-24x36.pdf

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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