

Epi Update for Friday, November 10, 2017

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **How one hospital went nearly a year without a C. difficile infection**
- **Study: Many health care providers work while ill**
- **More Iowans receiving flu vaccination so far this season**
- **Madagascar plague outbreak: Guidance for travelers**
- **In the news: People are living longer in places you wouldn't expect**
- **In the news: Here's why vaccines are so crucial**
- **Infographic: Deadly diarrhea**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

How one hospital went nearly a year without a C. difficile infection

Clostridium difficile (C. diff) is the most common cause of health care-associated diarrhea in U.S. hospitals. Reducing health care-acquired C. difficile infections is a complex and evolving battle.

Read how one hospital achieved 341 days without a hospital acquired C. difficile infection by implementing a multi-component

strategy: blogs.cdc.gov/safehealthcare/341-days-without-a-c-difficile-infection-how-mercy-health-st-anne-hospital-reduced-c-difficile-infection-rates-to-zero/

Study: Many health care providers work while ill

Every visit to a health care provider includes information on how to stay healthy: get your flu shot, take your medication and get plenty of rest. Often the instructions include staying at home when you are sick. But do health care providers follow their own advice?

A recent study highlights the problem – over 40 percent of health care providers reported working while ill with influenza-like illness during the 2014-2015 flu season. The study also examined common reasons why health care providers decided to work while ill.

For the full study, visit [www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(17\)30300-0/pdf](http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(17)30300-0/pdf).

More Iowans receiving flu vaccination so far this season

There has been a 9 percent increase in the reported number of influenza vaccine doses administered in Iowa from August through October 2017 (724,610) compared to the same months in 2016 (667,688). Influenza vaccination tracking in Iowa is based on doses reported to the Iowa Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS).

IDPH's weekly influenza report includes ongoing updates on influenza disease activity and vaccination numbers idph.iowa.gov/influenza/reports.

Madagascar plague outbreak: Guidance for travelers

CDC has recently updated its travel health advisory for Madagascar. The ongoing plague outbreak is now affecting urban areas, including the capital, Antananarivo.

No vaccine is available to prevent plague. Travelers should use insect repellent labeled to protect against fleas, avoid contact with sick or dead animals, and avoid contact with seriously ill people. Those who have contact with someone with plague pneumonia or who believe they may be ill with plague should immediately notify a health care provider.

For the full travel advisory, visit wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/plague-madagascar.

In the news: People are living longer in places you wouldn't expect

www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/10/05/552894481/people-are-living-longer-in-places-you-wouldn-t-expect

In the news: Here's why vaccines are so crucial

www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/11/vaccine-health-infection-global-children/

Infographic: Deadly diarrhea

www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/cdiff/cdiff-one-pager.pdf

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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