

**Epi Update for Friday, December 6, 2019**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**Items for this week's Epi Update include:**

- **Suspected lung injury associated with vaping temporarily designated as a reportable disease in Iowa**
- **FluSight generates ongoing influenza activity forecasts**
- **Progress update and initiatives for ending HIV transmission in Iowa, U.S**
- **In the news: The plague probably didn't wipe out the Roman Empire and half the world's population, new study suggests**
- **In the news: Wake-up call for vector-borne diseases that are on the uptick**
- **In the news: Why is it called Legionnaire's disease?**
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**Suspected lung injury associated with vaping temporarily designated as a reportable disease in Iowa**

IDPH has temporarily designated suspected lung injury associated with vaping as a reportable disease in Iowa. This designation began on December 1 and remain in place until May 31, 2020. All Iowa health care providers are required to report within three days patients presenting with radiographic evidence of lung injury and history of vaping. Reports can be made by calling 800-362-2736. Health care providers may be asked to fax or secure email copies of the patient's medical chart (hospital or discharge summary or history and physical if patient is still admitted, imaging reports, and laboratory work-up results).

As of December 4, a total of 2,291 cases of hospitalized e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury (EVALI) have been reported from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two U.S. territories. A total of 48 deaths have been confirmed in 25 states and the District of Columbia. In Iowa, there have been 49 reported EVALI cases, with no reported deaths. The majority of cases nationally and in Iowa continue to report vaping THC products. Vitamin E acetate has been identified as a chemical of concern among people with EVALI.

IDPH continues to work with clinical and public health partners to investigate reported cases. Iowans should not use vaping and e-cigarette products, since the cause of this outbreak is not clear and the long-term health impacts of these products are unknown. Anyone who has been vaping or using e-cigarette products and is having trouble breathing should seek medical care.

For more information, visit [www.idph.iowa.gov/ehi/lung-disease-vaping](http://www.idph.iowa.gov/ehi/lung-disease-vaping).

**FluSight generates ongoing influenza activity forecasts**

Influenza forecasting model FluSight is the product of a collaboration among CDC, academic and private industry researchers, and public health professionals. During each influenza season since 2013-14, CDC has worked with teams of external researchers to improve influenza forecasting. Each team submits weekly forecasts based on a variety of methods and data sources. During the 2018-2019 season, 24 teams participated, each submitting 38 different weekly forecasts. State-level influenza forecasting has been available since the 2017-18 season.

FluSight displays predictions for several targets and is a tool for public health professionals to predict upcoming changes in outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) activity. Targets include season onset, peak week, maximum percentage, and ILI percentage forecasted from one to four weeks ahead of the date they are available on FluView. State-level targets may vary from national-level targets and are not available as early in the season as national-level targets.

As of December 3, current national predictions show influenza activity is likely to increase and remain above baseline for the next few weeks. There is a 40 percent chance that influenza activity will peak in December.

For more information on influenza forecasting, visit [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/flusight/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/flusight/index.html).

Detailed influenza forecast data is available at <https://predict.cdc.gov/>.

The IDPH influenza report, updated weekly, is available at [idph.iowa.gov/influenza/reports](http://idph.iowa.gov/influenza/reports).

### **Progress update and initiatives for ending HIV transmission in Iowa, U.S**

CDC recently released a new Vital Signs report on ending HIV transmission in the U.S. Progress has stalled in recent years, and many people living with HIV do not know they have it. They also found that too few people are taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), the once-daily medication that is very effective in reducing HIV acquisition, and too few people living with HIV have the virus suppressed through effective treatment.

National findings showed that:

- 14 percent of people living with HIV (154,000 people) don't know they have it
- Only 63 percent of those diagnosed with HIV have the virus under control (suppressed)
- 84 percent of people who could benefit from PrEP aren't getting it, especially young people and those who are Latino or African American

In Iowa, 116 people were diagnosed with HIV in 2018, and 2,872 Iowans were living with diagnosed HIV at the end of the year. An estimated 14 percent of Iowans living with HIV are not yet diagnosed. In 2018, 81 percent of Iowans living with HIV achieved viral suppression, significantly higher than the national average and the highest on record for the state.

To end HIV transmission in the U.S., a significant scale-up of prevention, testing, and treatment is required, in addition to addressing health disparities. The federal Department of Health and Human Services is leading an *Ending the HIV Epidemic* initiative, which would substantially increase resources, technology, and expertise where they are needed most, with the goal of reducing new HIV infections by at least 90 percent by 2030.

The initiative would scale up four evidence-based strategies:

- diagnosing all people with HIV as early as possible
- treating people with HIV rapidly and effectively
- preventing new HIV transmission through evidence-based interventions, such as PrEP, condoms, and syringe services programs
- responding quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get prevention and treatment services to people who need them

Iowa has started planning a statewide initiative to end HIV transmission, *Stop HIV Iowa*, which will likely be modeled after the pillars of the federal initiative.

The full CDC report can be found at

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6848e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm6848e1\\_w&deliveryName=US\\_CDC\\_1046-DM14424](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6848e1.htm?s_cid=mm6848e1_w&deliveryName=US_CDC_1046-DM14424)

For information on HIV in Iowa, visit [stophiviowa.org](http://stophiviowa.org) and [idph.iowa.gov/hivstdhep](http://idph.iowa.gov/hivstdhep).

**In the news: The plague probably didn't wipe out the Roman Empire and half the world's population, new study suggests**

[www.cnn.com/2019/12/02/world/plague-roman-empire-scn/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2019/12/02/world/plague-roman-empire-scn/index.html)

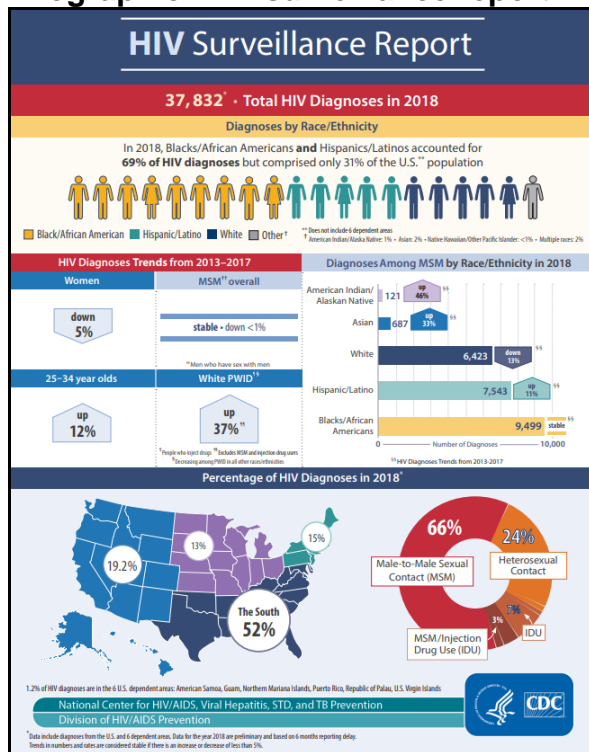
**In the news: Wake-up call for vector-borne diseases that are on the uptick**

[www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/wake-call-vector-borne-diseases-are-uptick](http://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/wake-call-vector-borne-diseases-are-uptick)

**In the news: Why is it called Legionnaire's disease?**

[www.forbes.com/sites/kionasmith/2019/11/30/why-is-it-called-legionnaires-disease/#4255f42f1b4d](http://www.forbes.com/sites/kionasmith/2019/11/30/why-is-it-called-legionnaires-disease/#4255f42f1b4d)

## Infographic: HIV surveillance report



To view in full size, visit [www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/cdc-hiv-surveillance-infographic.pdf?deliveryName=USCDCNPIN\\_26\\_DM14218](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/cdc-hiv-surveillance-infographic.pdf?deliveryName=USCDCNPIN_26_DM14218).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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