

**Epi Update for Friday, January 17, 2020**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

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

- **Update: 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Wuhan City, China**
- **First year of the Iowa Voluntary Veterinary Tick Surveillance Program a success**
- **Public safety notification on exosome products**
- **In the news: Not so hot – U.S. data suggest human bodies are cooling down**
- **In the news: You are unvaccinated and got sick. These are your odds.**
- **In the news: Healthy habits 'deliver extra disease-free decade'**
- **Infographic: Ways to prevent norovirus outbreaks from food contamination**

**Update: 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Wuhan City, China**

CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in more than 40 confirmed human infections in China with two deaths reported. A number of countries are actively screening incoming travelers from Wuhan and there has been one exported case confirmed in Thailand and another in Japan. Today the CDC and Customs and Border Protection began enhanced health screenings to detect ill travelers traveling to the United States on direct or connecting flights from Wuhan City. Screening is ongoing at the San Francisco (SFO), New York (JFK), and Los Angeles (LAX) airports.

Most patients in the outbreak have reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Some patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, suggesting that some limited person-to-person spread may be occurring.

Chinese health authorities have sequenced and shared the full genome of the virus, which will help identify infections with this virus going forward. More cases may be identified in the coming days, including more in countries outside China. Given what has occurred previously with MERS and SARS, it's possible that some limited person-to-person spread will occur.

**Healthcare providers are asked to:**

- Contact IDPH immediately if patients present with severe respiratory symptoms (without known diagnosis) AND history of travel to Wuhan City since December 1, 2019, and had onset of illness within two weeks of returning.
  - Contact IDPH at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours.
  - At this time, IDPH is not recommending China-specific travel screening at point of registration.
  - Healthcare providers should routinely screen for travel as part of their normal clinical evaluation.
- IDPH will advise healthcare providers on obtaining respiratory and other relevant specimens.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html).

### **First year of the Iowa Voluntary Veterinary Tick Surveillance Program a success**

In the spring of 2019, IDPH and ISU asked veterinarians to voluntarily submit ticks removed from animals as a method of conducting surveillance on the abundance and species of ticks in Iowa. The response from veterinarians was phenomenal, with 2,569 ticks submitted! Representation across Iowa was tremendous, as ticks were submitted from 93 of 99 counties.

Twenty of the ticks submitted were not able to be identified. The remaining 2,549 ticks were one of four species: 1,924 were *Dermacentor variabilis* (American dog tick), 384 were *Ixodes scapularis* (black-legged tick or deer tick), 239 were *Amblyomma americanum* (lone star tick), and two were *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (brown dog tick).

Prior to instituting this surveillance, *Ixodes scapularis* populations had only been documented in 39 Iowa counties, primarily in eastern and east-central Iowa. As of December 31, *Ixodes scapularis* have now been identified in 63 Iowa counties. This surveillance data shows how far these potentially Lyme disease-transmitting ticks have spread throughout our state. This expansion illustrates the ongoing Lyme disease risk to humans and animals across Iowa.

In addition, understanding the abundance of *Dermacentor variabilis* and *Amblyomma americanum* informs our understanding of the risk of diseases transmitted by these species, such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia.

For more information on tick-borne illnesses, as well as steps to take to prevent tick bites, visit [idph.iowa.gov/cade/vectorborne-illness#Tick-borne%20diseases](http://idph.iowa.gov/cade/vectorborne-illness#Tick-borne%20diseases).

### **Public safety notification on exosome products**

Last month, FDA issued a public safety notification on exosome products. This notice intended to inform the public, especially patients, health care practitioners and clinics, of multiple recent reports of serious adverse events experienced by patients in Nebraska who were treated with unapproved products marketed as containing exosomes.

There are currently no FDA-approved exosome products. Certain clinics across the country, including some that manufacture or market violative “stem cell” products, are now also offering exosome products to patients. They may claim that these products do not fall under the regulatory provisions for drugs and biological products – that is simply untrue. As a general matter, exosomes used to treat diseases and conditions in humans are regulated as drugs and biological products under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act, and are subject to premarket review and approval requirements.

Health care professionals and consumers should report adverse events related to exosome products or other unapproved product to FDA’s MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program.

Patients considering treatment with exosome products in the U.S. should ask if the FDA has reviewed the treatment, request the facts and ask questions if you don’t understand.

For more information, visit [www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/safety-availability-biologics/public-safety-notification-exosome-products](http://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/safety-availability-biologics/public-safety-notification-exosome-products).

**In the news: Not so hot – U.S. data suggest human bodies are cooling down**  
[www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00074-9](http://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00074-9)

**In the news: You are unvaccinated and got sick. These are your odds.**  
[www.nytimes.com/2020/01/09/opinion/vaccine-hesitancy.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/09/opinion/vaccine-hesitancy.html)

**In the news: Healthy habits 'deliver' extra disease-free decade'**  
[www.bbc.com/news/health-51036468](http://www.bbc.com/news/health-51036468)

### Infographic: Ways to prevent norovirus outbreaks from food contamination



To view in full size, visit [www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/norovirus/infographic.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/norovirus/infographic.html).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**  
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
800-362-2736