

EPI Update for Friday March 25, 2005
Center For Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Peep, Chirp, Quack
- Mumps-like Syndromes in Vaccinated Children
- Summary of Enteric Infections from Animal Contact - Minnesota
- Guidelines for Petting Zoos and other Animal Venues - MMWR
- CDC Advisory and FDA Statement - Serratia and Magnesium Sulfate
- Meeting Announcements and Training Opportunities

Peep, Chirp, Quack

Why parents should think twice before having their children around baby birds for Easter. Easter brings to mind traditions of brightly colored eggs, baskets full of candy, and large chocolate bunnies. However, some Easter traditions are of particular concern for children, and can place them at risk for serious illness. For example, baby animals, including baby chicks and ducks, are sometimes given as gifts or put on display, but can be carrying harmful bacteria, such as Salmonella. Each spring, after these types of exposures, some children become ill with Salmonella after playing with a baby chick or duckling at Easter.

Harmful bacteria carried in the chick's and duckling's intestine can also contaminate their cage and the entire surface of the animal. Children can become ill after simply holding the birds or even touching the cage. Children are most likely to become ill if they to put their fingers into their mouths after touching the bird or cage without washing their hands. Those at special risk for getting salmonella include young children, those with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, and the elderly.

For more information on pets and Easter you can go to the CDC's Healthy Pets, Healthy People website:

http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/easter_chicks.htm

Mumps-like Symptoms in Vaccinated Children

Over the past few months here in Iowa we have received several phone calls from astute practitioners who were concerned that their patients had mumps. For example, a teenager and woman in her 70s developed parotid swelling. The teenager had been appropriately vaccinated with mumps containing vaccine (MMR), while the woman was born before 1957, and would be considered immune because she would likely have had mumps as a child. A single dose of mumps containing vaccine has been shown to have 95 percent clinical efficacy in preventing the disease.

A study out of Finland tested serum samples of 601 vaccinated children and adolescents that had acute illnesses resembling mumps, were tested. Antibody

testing ruled out mumps as a cause, however they did find other viral infections in 14 percent of the patients. Epstein-Barr virus was found in 7 percent, 4 percent were found to be one of three different types of parainfluenza and adenovirus was detected in 3 percent. Thus, since all of these viruses are also found in Iowa, they should be considered when seeing a patient with parotid swelling, especially if they have been vaccinated.

It is also important to remember that even a positive IgM for mumps, which is the test that is normally done to confirm current infection, does not necessarily mean the patient has mumps. Some antibodies, such as those to parainfluenza, can cross react when doing serologic testing. Also, studies have shown that patients with rheumatoid arthritis may have false positive IgM results for mumps.

If you do suspect mumps, please consider if the patient has been traveling out of the country or if they have been around people who have been traveling or are visiting from foreign countries, as mumps is still prevalent in countries outside the U.S.

Summary of Enteric Infections from Animal Contact

A very good summary of various enteric infections that can occur from animal contact has just been published by the Minnesota Dept of Health in their most recent Disease Control Newsletter and is available at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/newsletters/dcn/2005/marapr05.pdf>

(You'll be amazed at all the ways those Minnesotans were getting sick from animals!)

Guidelines for Petting Zoos and other Animal Venues - MMWR

"Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings - 2005"

This report provides standardized recommendations for public health officials, veterinarians, animal venue operators, animal exhibitors, visitors to animal venues and exhibits, and others concerned with disease-control and with minimizing risks associated with animals in public settings. The recommendation to wash hands is the single most important prevention step for reducing the risk for disease transmission. The full report can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5404a1.htm>

CDC Advisory and FDA Statement - Serratia and Magnesium Sulfate

On Friday March 18th the CDC issued an advisory related to *Serratia marcescens* bloodstream infections associated with use of magnesium sulfate solutions manufactured by Pharmedium (Lake Forest, IL). We are asking that individuals who are aware of any *Serratia marcescens* bloodstream infections that occurred

during or shortly after receipt of the product described in the advisory below should notify IDPH at 1-800-362-2736.

CDC Advisory:

<http://www.ndhan.gov/data/health/CDC%20Advisory%2000224.pdf>

On March 18th FDA issued a statement regarding the voluntary recall of one lot of magnesium sulfate solutions manufactured by Pharmedium. They also provided a phone number (1-847-457-2300) for the company that hospitals or pharmacists can call if they have questions about any of the Pharmedium products as well as a phone number for the FDA's MedWatch office at 1 800-FDA-1088 where they can report concerns about these or other products.

FDA Statement: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/2005/NEW01166.html>

Meeting Announcement and Training Opportunities:

2005 Public Health Conference: Partnering for a Healthier Iowa Dept. of Public Health

March 29 and 30, 2005

Iowa State Center, Scheman Building, Ames

Conference partners are:

- Iowa Public Health Association

- Iowa Environmental Health Association

- University of Iowa College of Public Health

- Child Health Specialty Centers

- University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory

- Iowa Department of Public Health:

 - Bureau of Family Health

 - Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion

 - Bureau of Health Care Access

 - Oral Health Bureau

Registration materials, conference information and the agenda can be found at:

http://www.iowapha.org/2005_PH_Conference_Brochure.pdf