

EPI Update for Friday April 1, 2005
Center For Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Update on New Pertussis Vaccines**
- **Hansen's Disease (aka Leprosy)**
- **World Health Day-April 7, 2005**
- **CDC Issues Outbreak Notice for Marburg Virus Hemorrhagic Fever in Angola, Central Africa**
- **National Public Health Week-April 4-10, 2005**
- **Meeting Announcement and Training Opportunities**

Update on New Pertussis Vaccines (Whooping cough)

The manufacturers of two new vaccines for pertussis are currently seeking approval for these vaccines. The first is Boostrix manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline that would be used in people aged 10-18 years and the second is Adacel produced by Sanofi-Pasteur that would be used in people aged 11-64 years. As of early March the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration voted unanimously to recommend licensure of both vaccines. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will be working on guidelines for the use of these vaccines; consideration will be given to universal recommendations, such as all 11-12 year olds, or selected immunizations, such as healthcare workers, pregnant women, and parents of young infants. Watch for more information as this situation unfolds in the near future. It is expected that, when approved, these new vaccines will be combined with tetanus boosters (TdaP).

Hansen's Disease (aka Leprosy)

Recently a foreign-borne person, who resides in another state, was tentatively diagnosed with Hansen's Disease (Leprosy) at an Iowa hospital. Leprosy is a fascinating disease; it is the least communicable disease of all the "communicable diseases" in man. Even though we have known about this disease since before biblical times, we still aren't sure exactly how it is spread, but most likely via nasal secretions after prolonged, close contact with a patient. We do know, however, that most humans are innately resistant; it is estimated that only about 5% of people would ever get leprosy, even if infected. Tuberculosis, leprosy's cousin, only causes disease in about 10% of people who are infected.

It is treated with antibiotics, many of which are the same as those used to treat TB. And as with TB, the antibiotics are provided free of charge by public health to ensure complete and effective treatment. Treatment lasts about 12 months. But in contrast to TB, we do not treat those in close contact to leprosy patients with prophylactic antibiotics.

The only public health measures, other than to ensure treatment with proper antibiotics, is to check the patient's family members for signs of leprosy, and most important, to help the patient, family, and community (if aware of diagnosis) to understand that this disease is treatable, and that the patient should not be shunned. In fact, patients are allowed to continue to live in their community, and to go to work or school, even if there is a delay in starting on the antibiotics.

While most cases of leprosy in the US (less than 100 per year) occur in immigrants, endemic disease is found in 4 states - Hawaii, California, Louisiana, and Texas. Louisiana and Texas also have the distinction of having wild armadillos infected with leprosy, which may be able to spread to armadillo hunters.

World Health Day-April 7, 2005

World Health Day is celebrated every year on April 7. The theme of World Health Day 2005 is *Healthy Mothers and Children*. It is a unique opportunity to raise awareness that too many mothers and children in the world die or are suffering from the effects of ill health, poor nutrition, and inadequate health care. In developing countries, pregnancy and childbirth are one of the leading causes of death for women of reproductive age, and one child in 12 does not reach his/her fifth birthday.

Source: Make Every Mother and Child Count: A Toolkit for Organizers of Activities available at: <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2005/en/>

CDC Issues Outbreak Notice for Marburg Virus Hemorrhagic Fever in Angola, Central Africa

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed the presence of Marburg virus in 10 of 12 specimens submitted from an outbreak of suspected acute hemorrhagic fever syndrome in Uige Province in northern Angola. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report, 124 cases, including 117 deaths, have been identified in a retrospective analysis that traced the outbreak back to October 2004. Approximately 75percent of the reported cases were in children younger than five years of age, with male and female children affected almost equally. Predominant symptoms included fever, hemorrhage, vomiting, cough, diarrhea, and jaundice.

Marburg hemorrhagic fever is a rare, severe hemorrhagic virus that affects humans and non-human primates and belongs to the same family of viruses as the four strains of Ebola virus. The virus was first discovered in 1967 when laboratory workers, medical personnel, and their caregivers had been ill after being exposed to African Green Monkeys being used for research. Transmission may occur to humans who have handled infected monkeys or have come in direct contact with the infected monkey's fluids or cell cultures. Spread of the virus between humans has occurred during close contact with patients, often in a hospital. Droplets of body fluids, or direct contact with persons, equipment, or other objects contaminated with infectious blood or tissues are all highly suspect as sources of disease. At this time there is no known specific treatment for the disease except supportive hospital care.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/spb/mnpages/dispages/marburg.htm>

and

http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/marburg_vhf_angola_2005.htm

National Public Health Week-April 4-10, 2005

Are you looking for a great way to promote public health activities in your communities? You can do that by participating in National Public Health Week during April 4-10, 2005. The American Public Health Association website has ideas on what you can do in your community to get involved, a place to post your events, and find out what is going on in your area.

For more information go to: <http://www.apha.org/nphw/05-letter.htm>

Meeting Announcement and Training Opportunities

29th Annual Iowa Infection Control Seminar

May 3-4, 2005

Iowa City, IA 52344

Quality Inn Highlander

Contact: Dawn Folkmann 319-356-1742 or sherry-david@uiowa.edu

<http://www.uihc.uiowa.edu/corm/FolderHospitalEpiTraining.htm>

<https://email.idph.state.ia.us/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.uihc.uiowa.edu/corm/FolderHospitalEpiTraining.htm>

Iowa Immunization Conference-Immunization Works

June 2, 2005

Hy-Vee Conference Center

5820 Westown Parkway, WDM, IA

For additional information www.trainingresources.org

<https://email.idph.state.ia.us/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.trainingresources.org/> or call 515-309-3315.