

EPI Update for Friday, June 17, 2005

Center For Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Stool in the Pool**
- **Boosting Immunization Rates - Racial and Ethnic Populations**
- **Status of Licensure and Recommendations for New Vaccines - Online Resource**
- **CADE Internal Move - Phase 2**
- **Meeting Announcements and Training Opportunities**

No Stool in the Pool

Now that summer is here your child may share more than a good time in the wading pool. Historically, Iowa has seen many diarrheal illnesses related to fill and drain wading pools. These are the cute little blow-up or plastic back yard pools that are often referred to as kiddie pools or baby pools. Because toddlers are often not toilet trained, the water in the pool can quickly become contaminated. These pools provide an excellent environment to spread microscopic organisms that cause diarrhea such as *Cryptosporidium*, *Shigella*, and *Giardia*.

One of Iowa's largest *Shigella* outbreaks in 2001 was related to a city "fill-and-drain" pool where over 45 people became ill. Most of those ill were small children. Of the 45 who became ill, 7 were hospitalized. This was traced back to an unchlorinated city fill-and-drain pool. More recently, in the summer of 2004, an outbreak of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* was traced back to a childcare of 90 children who used fill-and-drain pools. There were over 20 related diarrheal illnesses in this outbreak.

CADE is promoting the use of the following recommendations that may help keep children healthy:

- 1.) Never allow children with diarrhea, open sores, and/or nasal infections in a pool with others.
- 2.) Always clean the pool before each use and fill with fresh water. Chlorine bleach (6.0percent sodium hypochlorite solution containing approximately 5.7percent available chlorine by weight) should be added to the pool in the amounts listed in this chart:

Diameter	Water Depth	Chlorine Bleach Amount
4 feet	6 inches	1/16 Cup
6 feet	6 inches	1/8 Cup
8 feet	6 inches	1/4 Cup

If using a test kit, it is important to maintain a Chlorine level at/or between 0.4 ppm (parts per million) and 2.0 ppm. This is not enough to cause harm to the child, but it will kill diarrhea-causing illnesses.

- 3.) Childcare providers should not use the fill-and-drain pools. Children, especially toddlers, can rapidly spread diarrheal illnesses when playing in common water.
- 4.) A sprinkler can provide a much safer, but still fun, alternative to the fill-and-drain pools.
- 5.) It is best to have only one child or one family in the pool.
- 6.) All children should use the toilet before entering the pool.
- 7.) All children should wear clean bathing suits, a clean change of underwear or swimming diapers in the pool.
- 8.) Should any child defecate while in the pool, all children should be immediately removed from the pool. The pool should then be emptied and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Summer can be a great time if there is “no stool in the pool”.

Boosting Immunization Rates - Racial and Ethnic Populations

Many communities in Iowa are becoming more diverse and that may bring up issues related to vaccination with which we are not as familiar. The American Medical Association has a new publication on their Web site in the “Roadmaps for Clinical Practice” series called *Improving Immunizations: Addressing Racial and Ethnic Populations*. This document provides background information, practical recommendations and solutions to commonly encountered questions that providers face from diverse patient populations, case presentations for improving health care delivery, and resources. It also focuses on ways of reducing ethnic and racial disparities in immunization rates. This publication can be found at:

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/9958.html>.

Status of Licensure and Recommendations for New Vaccines - Online Resource

As you may know there are many new vaccines in the pipeline. Some have been licensed, while others still have licensure pending. “The Red Book Online,” maintained by the American Academy of Pediatrics, has a table available on their Web site that tracks the status of new vaccines. It lists the manufacturer, the ages they have applied for licensure for, and where the licensure and recommendations stand. This Web site is available at <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/news/vaccstatus.shtml> and it is updated regularly.

CADE Internal Move - Phase 2

You may remember that about a month ago the CADE internal staff was moved to temporary offices (cubes) before relocation to our final locations on the 5th floor, still within the Lucas Building. The last week and a half we have been in the process of this final relocation and many of us have been without phones, email or fax off and on during

this week. We just wanted to let you know that most of us are now in our new offices with functional equipment, and we hope to be all settled in next week. We are doing everything we can to make sure we return emails and phone calls as quickly as possible. We apologize for any difficulties you have had getting in touch with us this week and appreciate your patience.

Meeting Announcements and Training Opportunities

- **Barnraising V, Building Iowa as a Healthy Community**

The deadline for early registration for Barnraising V: Building Iowa as a Healthy Community is July 1. Registration materials and conference information is located at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/conferences.asp>. Click on Barn Raising V.

- **Governor's Homeland Security Conference**

Sessions on water security, public health and emergency preparedness, and others that are relevant to emergency preparedness for public health will be part of the Governor's Homeland Security Conference July 26-28 in Des Moines. Consult <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/> for information of registration and a brochure.

- **The Clock is Ticking for Rural America**

Registration is also open for "The Clock is Ticking for Rural America: A Behavioral Health and Safety Conference" to be held July 11-13 at Bloomington, MN. Visit <http://www.agriwellness.org> for conference and registration information.