

EPI Update for Friday, Nov. 17, 2006
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine recommendations**
- **Influenza news**
- **Rabies Web site correction**
- **Which adults need pneumococcal vaccine and revaccination?**
- **Thanksgiving facts**
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Meningococcal conjugate vaccine recommendations

On Nov. 3, 2006, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for use of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) Menactra[®] were made available at

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5543a5.htm?s_cid=mm5543a5_e

This tetravalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur, Inc.) is licensed for use among persons aged 11-55 years. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine vaccination with MCV4 of persons aged 11-12 years, of adolescents at high school entry (i.e., at approximately age 15) if not previously vaccinated with MCV4, and of college freshmen living in dormitories. Vaccination is also recommended for other persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease (e.g., military recruits, travelers to areas where meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic, microbiologists who are routinely exposed to isolates of *Neisseria meningitidis*, persons with anatomic or functional asplenia, and persons with terminal complement deficiency).

In May 2006, there was a recommendation for deferral of MCV4 vaccination of children aged 11–12 years in response to vaccine supply limitations. The vaccine manufacturer reports that the MCV4 supply issues have now been resolved. **Thus, CDC recommends resuming routine vaccination for all recommended groups according to ACIP recommendations, including children aged 11–12 years.** Where possible, providers who deferred vaccination of children aged 11–12 years should recall those patients for vaccination.

Influenza news

National Influenza Vaccination Week – Nov. 27 to Dec. 3

To help raise awareness of influenza vaccination recommendations and the importance of continuing vaccination efforts throughout November and beyond, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), CDC, the National Influenza Vaccine

Summit, partners and stakeholders will be announcing a National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) from Monday, Nov. 27 through Sunday, Dec. 3.

Additional influenza case confirmed in Iowa

Another case of influenza has been confirmed in Iowa, this time in Northeast Iowa. This brings the total of laboratory-confirmed (excluding rapid influenza positive results) to three. Cases are distributed throughout Iowa and all have been type A, two confirmed to be H3. South Dakota reported their first laboratory confirmed case as type B. Also type A, H1 has been isolated in the southern U.S. Thus three strains of influenza are already circulating in the U.S. this year, which is unusual.

Iowa influenza activity level remains at sporadic; this means there are isolated cases throughout the state and increasing levels of influenza-like illness. For more information on influenza activity and surveillance, download this week's surveillance report at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/iisn.asp.

Clinicians...continue submitting specimens for confirmation

If you are diagnosing your first case of influenza for this season with a rapid influenza positive result and the patient is symptomatic, please submit a specimen for confirmation and strain type determination to the University Hygienic Laboratory. For information on specimen submission, visit www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/vidandpcrcollectioninstructions.pdf. We have not yet reached the influenza activity level in Iowa when the positive predictive value of influenza rapid tests are optimal for diagnostic confirmation.

Rabies Web site correction

Due to technical difficulties, clicking on the address in last week's EPI Update for the Rabies Web page did not work correctly. Clicking on this address should work correctly: www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/rabies.asp. We apologize for the confusion.

Which adults need pneumococcal vaccine and revaccination?

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (PPV) vaccine should be administered routinely to all adults 65 years of age and older. **Revaccination for healthy persons age 65 or older is not recommended.** However, if the person received the first dose prior to age 65, revaccination at age 65 (or older) is recommended if at least 5 years has elapsed since the previous dose. For complete recommendations please see the MMWR titled "Prevention of Pneumococcal Disease" at <ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/publications/mmwr/rr/rr4608.pdf>.

The Immunization Action Coalition also outlines this issue well and has a chart of when to vaccinate.

Their Web site is <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/2015pne.htm>.

Thanksgiving facts

- Americans eat 45 million turkeys every thanksgiving.

- Turkey is a good source of vitamin B6 and phosphorus, and a very good source of protein, niacin and selenium.
- Turkey meat should reach 180 degrees while cooking.
- A 4-ounce serving of sweet potato contains no saturated fat and no cholesterol.
- A piece of homemade pumpkin pie has 100 more calories on average than a store-bought pie.
- The average person consumes 1800 calories in one thanksgiving dinner (including the pumpkin pie).
- Unfortunately, an estimated 800,000 people will become ill with a foodborne illness this thanksgiving.

Health literacy Web site needs four minutes of your time

As announced in the November issue of *Iowa Health Focus* (available at www.idph.state.ia.us/health_literacy/default.asp), IDPH has recently launched *Plain & Simple: A health literacy project for Iowa*. The project is aimed at helping public health workers and other health care partners use easy to understand language when writing or speaking about health. An important part of the project is the *Plain & Simple* Web site. What would you like to see there? Share your thoughts by taking a four-minute survey. Go to www.idph.state.ia.us/health_literacy and click on the link at the top of the page. This survey will be available only until Dec. 1.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Antibiotic Resistance Grand Rounds

“Update on Community Acquired / Associated Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)”, on **Dec. 13, Noon – 1:00 P.M.**

Presented by Loreen Herwaldt, M.D., Steven B. Rinderknecht, D.O., and Lisa Veach, M.D.

This is a free teleconference for all health care providers. A call-in telephone number and an e-mail or fax copy of the slides will be provided to you following receipt of your registration form). The registration form is available at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/grandround_2006_registration.pdf.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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Iowa Department of Public Health

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