

EPI Update for Friday, January 5, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Iowa influenza activity**
- **Start the year new without the flu**
- **CDC issues ACIP'S general recommendations on immunization**
- **Reminder of Tdap vaccination recommendations for adults**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Iowa influenza activity

Influenza activity is picking up. Reports indicate that people aged 0-24 are primarily affected, though activity has been reported in every age group. Influenza-like illness reported by sentinel physicians has increased steadily and a higher number of hospitalizations attributable to influenza is now being reported. To view this week's and previous week's reports, visit our influenza surveillance Web site at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/iisn.asp>.

Start the year new without the flu

Vaccination is the best method for prevention of influenza and its potentially severe complications. Given that influenza activity often peaks in February, vaccination should continue through the month of January and beyond. Across the United States, influenza A (H1) viruses have been reported most frequently, and the majority of influenza A (H1) viruses characterized are well matched by the vaccine. The other two strains of flu circulating in Iowa are also covered by the vaccine. Vaccine should be offered throughout the influenza season, even after influenza activity has been documented in the community.

Visit the following Web sites often to find the information you need to keep vaccinating. Both are regularly updated with the latest resources: the National Influenza Vaccine Summit Web site at <http://www.preventinfluenza.org> and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Influenza Web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

CDC issues ACIP'S general recommendations on immunization

On Dec. 1, 2006 CDC published "General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)" in the MMWR Recommendations and Reports. Last issued in 2002, the recommendations now cover the following topics:

- timing and spacing of immunobiologics;
- vaccine administration;
- altered immunocompetence;

- special situations;
- vaccination records;
- reporting adverse events after vaccination;
- vaccination programs; and
- vaccine information sources.

The 2006 revision of the General Recommendations features visual elements, such as diagrams, images and tables. Some of the more notable additions are:

- an updated table of contraindications and precautions to commonly used vaccines;
- images displaying the correct administration site for intramuscular and subcutaneous injections for infants and adults;
- a table outlining the treatment of anaphylaxis; and
- a table comparing the advantages and disadvantages of various types of thermometers used to monitor vaccine storage temperatures.

To view all General Recommendations, visit

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5515a1.htm>

Reminder of Tdap vaccination recommendations for adults

On June 10, 2005, a tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and a cellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) formulated for use in adults and adolescents was licensed in the United States for persons aged 11-64 years (ADACEL, manufactured by sanofi pasteur).

To reduce pertussis morbidity among adults, as well as pertussis transmission to infants and in health care settings, the ACIP recommends that:

- adults aged 19-64 years should receive a single dose of Tdap;
- intervals shorter than 10 years since the last Td may be used for booster protection against pertussis;
- adults (e.g., parents, grandparents, child-care providers and health care personnel) who have or who anticipate having close contact with an infant younger than 12 months of age should receive a single dose of Tdap to reduce the risk for transmitting pertussis; and
- health care personnel who work in hospitals or ambulatory care settings and have direct patient contact should receive a single dose of Tdap.

To view the recommendations, visit

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5517a1.htm> .

IDPH newsletter now available

The January 2007 issue of the *Iowa Health Focus* newsletter, published by the Iowa Department of Public Health, will be available Friday afternoon online at

www.idph.state.ia.us/do/focus.asp.

In this issue you will find:

- Daily health message project turns 10
- I-Smile dental strategy to save money, reduce disease
- Most Iowans willing to report health factors
- EPA funding to bring together citizens and experts
- Survey reveals health of Iowa children
- Students, non-licensed food servers get training
- IDPH Team Voices: Office of Vital Records
- Radon a problem in nearly two-thirds of Iowa homes
- Cold air can trigger asthma
- Coming soon: *Advances in Iowa Public Health, 1999-2006*

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Webcast – Engaging the Public in Pandemic Flu Planning

For those with access to Iowa's Learning Management System

Sponsored by the Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness

Jan. 11, broadcast 9:00-10:00 a.m., and again 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Register at

www.prepareiowa.com/Public/Catalog/Description.aspx?u=kM6WW0gCRpmua%2br1qcnl1G0cJkpZVNPYjH6EyfwdZ%2fmnm6%2bBn6tAfGmIM3SdyZUf4IREELAzHO4%3d.

Let's make this New Year a healthy one!

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