

**EPI Update for Friday, February 9, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **IDSS update**
- **Respiratory illness information available from UHL**
- **More salons disciplined for unsanitary nail practices**
- **Weird phone call**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

IDSS update

Development of the Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) is nearly complete. Training for pilot sites is scheduled in each of the regions for the middle of February, kicking off the 6-12 week pilot at each facility immediately thereafter. The pilot is intended to test system functionality, system performance, and training procedures prior to the statewide rollout of IDSS, which begins following the pilot phase of the project.

The IDSS application integrates with the HAN system to alert state and local public health staff of newly reported instances of disease. It also provides updates to existing cases during investigations. These alerts are designed to automatically occur as users create new cases and update existing records in IDSS. In addition to alerting appropriate users of new or updated information, HAN alerts will be used to provide reminders to state and local public health agencies if a case pending investigation has not been reviewed at the third and 10th day after initial notification.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact John Satre at 515-242-5090 or by email at jsatre@idph.state.ia.us.

Respiratory illness information available from UHL

Our public health partners at the University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) have good information on influenza, mumps, pertussis, and other respiratory viruses in Iowa on their Web site. For more information, visit www.uhl.uiowa.edu/webstats/Webstats?parameter=1.

More salons disciplined for unsanitary nail practices

Recently, the Iowa Board of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences Examiners (part of IDPH) has taken disciplinary action regarding several nail salon licensees in

Iowa. These disciplinary actions are the second round to be issued resulting from state inspection of nearly 550 salons conducted by the Department of Inspections and Appeals.

People can protect against unsanitary practices at nail salons by making sure the technician's and salon's licenses are posted in plain sight or by making sure the technician carries a license wallet card. Iowans should make sure that the business is clean, instruments are sanitized between customers, technician(s) washes his or her hands between customers, there is good ventilation for fumes, the technician places a clean towel on the workstation and instruments have been sanitized using an approved disinfectant.

Common dangers associated with unsanitary nail practices are infections of the nail from fungi, staphylococcus bacteria, or viruses, and the lifting of or loss of the nail. Rare problems can result in loss of a finger or a toe.

To learn if disciplinary action against a salon or licensee has been issued, visit the cosmetology board's Web site at www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure. Complaints against an individual or business must be in writing and remain confidential. To file a complaint, use the form on the Web page or call the board office at 515-281-0254.

The Iowa Department of Public Health's Bureau of Professional Licensure provides coordination, support, and licensing of 19 boards of health-related examiners. The bureau licenses and regulates about 90,000 individuals and 7,250 businesses.

Weird phone call

Last week, IDPH received a call from a reality show that was filming an Iowa family. They asked if the state had any health regulations or concerns about human or livestock consumption of "road kill" animals found on the side of the road.

We responded that IDPH would indeed have concerns, as this is not a healthy practice; you do not know what the animal died of or how long it had been laying by the side for the road. The lone exception being if you run into a deer (suicide by Buick), you can take that deer to be processed into meat...as long as you notify the Iowa Department of Natural Resources of the kill since they perform deer tracking in the state. The reality show thanked us for the information.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None.

Have a healthy, happy, and warm week!

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