

EPI Update for Friday, February 23, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Health care personnel and pertussis**
- **Stop collecting peanut butter jars**
- **2006 Rabies Summary**
- **New autism study**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Health care personnel and pertussis

Health care personnel are at increased risk for being exposed to pertussis. Investigation and control measures to prevent pertussis after unprotected exposure in health care settings are labor-intensive, disruptive and costly. With the recent availability of a tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine for adults (Tdap), there is reason to review how this vaccine should be used for health care personnel.

On Dec. 15, 2006 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendations for preventing tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis among adults. This document includes a section for use of the Tdap vaccine for health care personnel. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5517.pdf and refer to page 18 for recommendations specific to health care personnel.

Stop collecting peanut butter jars

IDPH will no longer be asking local public health officials to collect peanut butter jars from ill individuals who may be linked to the nationwide *Salmonella* Tennessee outbreak. After discussions with CDC and FDA, there are enough jars of peanut butter being tested across the nation, including at the University Hygienic Laboratory, (UHL) that there is no longer a need to collect this product, whether a household member is sick or not. However if local public health officials have peanut butter jars that they are holding, continue to hold those until clinical specimen results have been received. UHL plans to test jars from confirmed *Salmonella* Tennessee cases.

2006 Rabies Summary

The 2006 Rabies Summary is now posted on the IDPH Web site. Included in the summary is a county map of reported animal-rabies cases in Iowa, and a discussion of the use of post-exposure prophylaxis. For more information, visit idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies_final_2006.pdf.

New autism study

Autism is one of a group of disorders known as autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). ASDs are developmental disabilities that cause substantial impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests. ASDs occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups and are four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls. A recent study released by the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network found that about 1 in 150 8-year-old children in multiple areas of the United States had an ASD.

A lot has been learned about the symptoms of ASDs, but we still don't know a lot about the causes of ASDs. Scientists think that both one's genes and the environment play a role, and that there might be many causes that lead to ASDs. Several studies have looked at whether there is a relationship between vaccines and autism. The weight of the evidence indicates that vaccines are not associated with autism, but the CDC is conducting a number of studies to attempt to find the cause or causes of ASDs. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/documents/AutismCommunityReport.pdf.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Fourth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference

July 16-18, 2007

Polk County Convention Complex

Des Moines, IA

For more information, email governorsconf@iowa.gov or call Mary Ann Lee at 515-243-2000.

Have a healthy and happy week!
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