

**EPI Update for Friday, March 16, 2007**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health**

**Items for this week's EPI Update include:**

- **CDC issues ACIP recommendations for the use of human papillomavirus vaccine**
- **Think National Public Health Week: Get involved!**
- **Proper collection of wound specimens for laboratory testing**
- **Updated influenza guidance for long-term care facilities**
- **Correction to "Carbon monoxide, reported cases and highlighted causes"**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**CDC issues ACIP recommendations for the use of human papillomavirus vaccine**

On March 12, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Early Release, "Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices."

Genital human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States; an estimated 6.2 million persons are newly infected every year. Although the majority of infections cause no clinical symptoms and the infected person gets over the infection, persistent infection with cancer-causing types of HPV can cause cervical cancer in women. HPV infection also causes genital warts and is associated with other cancers.

Although cervical cancer rates have decreased in the United States because of widespread use of Pap tests which can detect precancerous changes in the cervix before they develop into cancer, it is estimated that 11,100 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed in 2007 and approximately 3,700 women will die from the disease. In certain countries where cervical cancer screening is not routine, cervical cancer is a common cancer in women. Prevention of infection is expected to decrease the number of cases of cervical cancer.

The recommended age for vaccination of females is 11-12 years. Vaccine can be administered as young as age 9 years. Catch-up vaccination is recommended for females aged 13-26 years who have not been previously vaccinated. Vaccination is not a substitute for routine cervical cancer screening, and vaccinated females should have cervical cancer screening as recommended.

To access a ready-to-print (PDF) version of the guidelines, go to [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr56e312.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr56e312.pdf).

### **Think National Public Health Week: Get involved!**

The theme for National Public Health Week (NPHW), April 2-8, is *Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's Vulnerable Populations*. The NPHW Iowa Workgroup members have been working hard to make this year a success and encourage your involvement to help reach the target populations. Iowa populations targeted during NPHW include mothers with children in the household, hourly-wage workers and people living with chronic disease or disability. K-12 schools and preschools are also being encouraged to prepare for public health emergencies.

Do you know about any events or activities through which we can reach this year's populations? If so, contact Kim Tichy at [ktichy@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:ktichy@idph.state.ia.us) or 515-281-4288. Do you know of mailing lists or other distribution channels that can be used to deliver this year's message of preparedness? If so, contact Lilian Hu at [lhu@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:lhu@idph.state.ia.us).

The Iowa NPHW Web site, [www.idph.state.ia.us/do/nphw\\_2007.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/do/nphw_2007.asp) has a number of resources and events posted. Please feel free to promote these events and download and distribute the materials on the site. Information is also available from the American Public Health Association at <http://www.apha.org/>.

### **Proper collection of wound specimens for laboratory testing**

One of the most important considerations of any diagnostic test is the collection of the specimen. Ordinarily, when considering a culture, the first thing that comes to mind is a swab. However, a swab of the surface is not always the right choice, particularly for wound specimens. In the January 2007 issue of "CAP Today," from the College of American Pathologists, there is an excellent article for health care providers regarding collection of specimens on swabs. According to the authors, a surface swab usually collects only the organisms that are normally found on the skin, which may not be the ones causing the wound infection, and misses the organisms infecting the wound. For information on how to put this information into practice, see the full article.

[www.cap.org/apps/cap.portal?nfpb=true&cntvwrPtl%7BactionOverride=%2Fportlet%7BcontentViewer%7Bshow%7BwindowLabel=cntvwrPtl%7BcntvwrPtl%7BactionForm.contentReference%7D=cap\\_today%7Bfeature\\_stories%7B0107Wound.html%7Bstate=maximized%7BpageLabel=cntvwr](http://www.cap.org/apps/cap.portal?nfpb=true&cntvwrPtl%7BactionOverride%7D%7Bportlet%7BcontentViewer%7Bshow%7BwindowLabel=cntvwrPtl%7BcntvwrPtl%7BactionForm.contentReference%7D=cap_today%7Bfeature_stories%7B0107Wound.html%7Bstate=maximized%7BpageLabel=cntvwr).

### **Measures to prevent and control influenza spread in long-term care facilities**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have updated their information on controlling influenza spread in long term care (LTC) facilities. In addition to giving general guidance for prevention and control of influenza transmission in LTC, links to recommendations for the 2006-07 influenza seasons are provided. Click on

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcarefacilities.htm> for complete information.

**Correction to “Carbon monoxide, reported cases and highlighted causes”**

Twenty-three instances of carbon monoxide poisoning related to the recent winter storm and clean-up have been reported to IDPH. In these instances, 45 persons were reported to have been exposed to carbon monoxide. Last week’s EPI Update incorrectly referred to 24 cases of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

There are no announcements for this week.

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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