

EPI Update for Friday, June 29, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Rare *E. coli* strain uncovered in Eastern Iowa children**
- **Salmonella montevideo infections due to baby chick exposure**
- **Vaccine storage & handling**
- **June 27 is National HIV Testing Day**
- **Treatment regimens for “*Neisseria gonorrhoeae*” in Iowa can include Ciprofloxacin**
- **Governor's Conference on Public Health offers unique opportunities, perks – register by 7/13**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Rare *E. coli* strain uncovered in Eastern Iowa children

Three cases of enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC) strain O26 have been identified in an Eastern Iowa county. Symptoms include diarrhea (may or not be bloody) lasting 3 to 10 days, fever, vomiting, nausea and abdominal cramps. No hospitalizations have been reported. Several possible sources of infection, such as splash pads, wading pools, and contact with farm kittens, have been identified; however, at the moment no epidemiological link has been established.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) requests that clinicians screen patients suspected of having EHEC or other significant diarrhea illnesses, regardless of exposure history. Providers and hospital laboratories are encouraged to submit clinical specimens to the University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) for culturing and identification of this organism.

UHL routinely screens stools submitted for Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) and conducts extended cultures on those specimens that are STEC/EHEC positive and *E. coli* O157 culture negative. Stool specimen collection kits and test request forms can be ordered by contacting UHL at 319-335-4500 or on the Web at www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/bacteriologyrequestform.pdf.

***Salmonella montevideo* infections due baby chick exposure**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently coordinating an investigation of *Salmonella montevideo* infections potentially related to exposure to baby chicks. As of June 18, CDC has reported at least 41 cases in 17 states. There are no cases in Iowa. The association of salmonellosis with exposure to baby chicks has been recognized.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/healthypets/easter_chicks.htm.

Vaccine storage & handling

Appropriate storage and handling of vaccine supply is very important. IDPH recommends the following for standard storage and handling of vaccines in Iowa:

- Dormitory style refrigerator units are **not recommended** for vaccine storage.
- Recommended refrigerator storage temperatures are:
 1. Refrigerator 35 through 46 degrees F, or 2 through 8 degrees C; or an average of 40 degrees F, or 5 degrees C
 2. Freezer less than 5 degrees F, or less than minus 15 degrees C
- It is important to check and record temperatures twice a day.
- Take immediate action when the temperature is outside the recommended range and document the action steps taken.

If you have any questions regarding vaccine storage or handling call IDPH's Immunization program at 1-800-831-6293. For additional resources and information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp.

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 180,000 to 280,000 people nationwide are HIV-positive but are unaware of their status. HIV counseling and testing enables people with HIV to take steps to protect their own health and that of their partners. The testing programs also help people who test negative get information they need to stay uninfected.

Across the country, thousands of HIV counseling and testing sites, state and local health departments, and community-based HIV/AIDS service providers will participate in NHTD events on June 27. To learn more about how to participate in NHTD, visit the NAPWA HIV Testing Day Web site at www.napwa.org/hivtestinfo.

Treatment regimens for “*Neisseria gonorrhoeae*” in Iowa can include Ciprofloxacin

On April 13, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new guidelines for treatment of gonococcal infections. Included within the guidelines factors influencing fluoroquinolone resistance of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (QRNG) increasing and becoming widespread in the United States. Due to the increased QRNG prevalence rate in recent years (over the 5 percent baseline), CDC decided to change treatment recommendations in defined groups and locations.

IDPH reports that QRNG is below 5 percent prevalence in Iowa. Therefore, a treatment regimen of Ciprofloxacin 500 mg remains the recommended first line treatment of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in Iowa. Ceftriaxone 125 mg or Cefixime 400 mg is recommended for treatment in cases where QRNG is suspected or cannot be ruled out.

A surveillance program that continually monitors the prevalence of QRNG in Iowa has long been instituted and continues to monitor the prevalence rate of QRNG. Any treatment failures in regard to Ciprofloxacin should be reported to the IDPH STD Program at 515-281-4936.

Governor's Conference on Public Health offers unique opportunities, perks – register by 7/13

What will \$50 get you these days? Quite a lot, if you plan to attend the Governor's Conference on Public Health: Barn Raising VI on August 2 & 3. Held every two years at Drake University, the conference is regarded as one of the most important public health events in the Midwest. The theme of this year's gathering is *Celebrating Healthy Communities*.

Plenary session speakers include: Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of CDC; Admiral Dr. John O. Agwunobi, assistant secretary for health at the Department of Health and Human Services; and Martin Collis, worksite wellness expert, educator, humorist and singer. The 40 concurrent sessions will cover the topics of state-wide health insurance initiatives diversity, environmental health, response to crisis, substance abuse, funding issues, oral health and more!

Twenty-two opportunities for continuing education credits will be available through the conference. Also, each conference participant will receive: a special 64-page magazine celebrating initiatives across Iowa to build healthy communities; an electronic version of the *2007 Iowa Fact Book*; and a pocketed canvas bag – perfect for the items more than 55 exhibitors will be giving away.

Click [here](#) to register to register online, or visit www.trainingresources.org. But hurry! The **July 13 early bird deadline** is right around the corner. For detailed information about speakers and presentations, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/barn_raising.asp.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

IDSS training

The Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) training sessions for hospital infection control, laboratory staff as well as local public health agency staff are beginning soon. If you plan to attend one of these sessions and use IDSS, it is important that you request a network access token about 2 weeks before the training. If you have not requested a token yet, please contact John Satre at jsatre@idph.state.ia.us or (515)242-5090.

Have a healthy and happy summer!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736