

EPI Update for Friday, September 21, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Lead testing using the Lead Care II blood analyzer**
- **Flu Clinic Locator**
- **National Preparedness Month**
- **National Adult Immunization Awareness Week**
- **Food Safety Education Month**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Lead testing using the Lead Care II blood analyzer

Lead Care II is a CLIA-waived blood analyzer for point-of-care lead testing. Public and private health care providers are considering its use for their patients. Providers using Lead Care II analyzers must report the results of all lead testing done at their facility to the IDPH Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention at least weekly. Note: reporting must be done regardless of test results, i.e. even if tests are "negative."

The following information must be reported for each lead test performed:

- name of patient;
- address (city, state, zip code);
- date of birth of the patient;
- race and ethnicity of the patient;
- date of blood lead sample collection;
- sample type;
- blood lead test result; and
- name and address of the provider.

Immediately report any blood lead level greater than or equal to 20 micrograms per deciliter by calling the Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention at 800-972-2026. (These results should also be included in the weekly report.) Providers who have questions can call 800-972-2026.

Flu Clinic Locator

Providing influenza (flu) vaccine? Hosting a flu clinic? Be a part of the Flu Clinic Locator Web site provided by the American Lung Association (ALA). The Web site assists the public in finding influenza vaccination providers throughout the United States. Public and private providers of the flu vaccine are encouraged to register their site. For more information about registering, visit

www.lungusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=aqKGLXOAIH&b=3090427. This season's sites are not yet available at the ALA Flu Clinic Locator Web site. A link will be provided on the IDPH influenza Web site once this information is available.

For influenza information from IDPH, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/flu.asp .

National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies by taking simple steps in their homes, businesses and schools. IDPH sponsors Protect Iowa Health, an emergency preparedness education campaign which encourages Iowans to take action now to protect their families.

Iowans are encouraged to make an emergency supply kit and communications plan. To assist in doing this, a free guidebook is available and includes checklists for an emergency supply kit and a family communications plan. It also includes information on how to respond to public health emergencies, the role of public health, what action the public should take, coping with an emergency and important contact information. A free copy of the Protect Iowa Health guidebook can be ordered online at www.protectionowahealth.org or by calling 515-281-5604.

Throughout September, IDPH will work with local public health agencies and hospitals to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across Iowa.

National Adult Immunization Awareness Week (NAIAW)

The 20th annual NAIAW is Sept. 23-29. This is a great opportunity for individuals and organizations to promote the importance of adult and adolescent immunizations. For a comprehensive 84-page 2007 campaign kit from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, as well as tools and presentations for NAIAW 2007 from the California Adult Immunization Coalition, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/naiaw.

Food Safety Education Month

September is National Food Safety Education Month. The theme this year is Viruses: They're in Your Hands. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, viruses are responsible for more than half of all foodborne illnesses. Norovirus and hepatitis A are the two most common viral causes of foodborne illness.

Persons infected with these viruses usually have vomiting and diarrhea, and can shed virus in their stools. If a person preparing food does not properly wash their hands after using the restroom, and before and after preparing food, they can contaminate the food they are preparing. And if a person has diarrhea, they should not handle food for others, no matter how well they wash their hands.

Norovirus and hepatitis A are highly contagious and only a small amount of these viruses can make someone ill. Proper handwashing can help prevent the spread of these foodborne viruses. For more information on foodborne illnesses, visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/foodborneinfections_g.htm.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week, and use this month to prepare for emergencies, get immunized and learn how to handle food safely!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

800-362-2736