

EPI Update for Friday, October 12, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Outbreak of *Salmonella* associated with pot pies**
- **Common cold guidelines in infants and toddlers**
- **International Infection Prevention Week**
- **Public Health Redesign Public comment period, Oct. 8 - Nov. 9**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Outbreak of *Salmonella* associated with pot pies

An investigation is ongoing into a multi-state outbreak of *Salmonella* 1,4,[5],12:i:- infections which has been linked to eating Banquet brand pot pies produced by the ConAgra Foods Company. At this time, we recommend that people do not eat any Banquet pot pies or any of the other 8 brands (see below website) of pot pies made by ConAgra Foods that have a printed code beginning with "5009" and ending in "P9" or "Est. 1059." If consumers have any of these products at home, the safest thing to do is to throw them away.

No cases have been identified yet in Iowa, but surveillance is ongoing. Cases have been reported in 31 states. Their ages range from <1 to 87 years with a median age of 20 years; 51% of ill persons are female. At least 30 people have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported. IDPH and the University Hygienic Laboratory are not testing pot pies from ill individuals.

Remind people to always thoroughly cook any non-ready-to-eat products as instructed on the packages. The cooking instructions for non-ready-to-eat products are specifically designed to eliminate the presence of any disease-causing bacteria that may be found in the uncooked or partially cooked products.

More information on this outbreak can be found at:

[www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall 044 2007 Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_044_2007_Release/index.asp)

www.cdc.gov/salmonella/4512eyeminus.html

media.conagrafoods.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=97518&p=irolnewsArticle&ID=1060682&highlight

Common cold guidelines in infants and toddlers

Parents are cautioned to avoid cough and cold medicines for infants and young children unless the medication is specifically recommended by the child's doctor. For young children, an accidental overdose could be fatal. The potential risks of

using cough and cold medicines in children younger than two years of age outweigh any minimal benefits.

The following should be used when treating the common cold:

- Offer plenty of fluids.
- Thin mucus in nasal passages with over-the-counter saline nasal drops.
- Use a humidifier. Aim the mist away from the infant or child's bed to keep the bedding from becoming damp. To prevent mold growth, change the water daily and follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning the unit. It might also help to sit with the infant or child in a steamy bathroom for a few minutes before bedtime.

For more information, visit www.mayoclinic.com/health/cold-medicines/AN01536.

International Infection Prevention Week

The week of October 14th – 20th is International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW). This year's theme is "Infection Prevention – it's in your hands." How will you support your facility's infection control practitioner or local public health disease prevention specialist? Will you get your influenza vaccine? Will you wash your hands each time after using the bathroom, after having patient contact, before preparing foods, and before every meal? Will you cover your nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing?

All of these simple activities will decrease illness and lessen the spread of disease. Show your appreciation to those who promote these activities and practice infection prevention. Support your infection control/disease prevention staff.

The following are some resources to promote infection control activities:

- A variety of handwashing posters can be found at http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=14&tax_level=3&tax_subject=231&topic_id=1198&level3_id=5075.
- Cover your cough posters are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/images/CoverCgh-hcp-view.gif>.
- Free influenza vaccine brochures and posters are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery/index.htm>.

Public Health Redesign Public comment period, Oct. 8 - Nov. 9

There will be a second public comment period regarding proposed changes to the state criteria of the Iowa Public Health Standards. Proposed changes to the April 3, 2007 version of the standards are based on comments from the first public comment period in spring 2007, and recommendations from a committee

that developed standards and criteria for public health responsibilities that primarily take place at the state level.

The proposed changes can be viewed on the Redesigning Public Health Web site beginning Oct. 8 at www.idph.state.ia.us/rphi. Comments can be made through the Web site or directly to Martha Gelhaus at mgelhaus@idph.state.ia.us.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

3rd Annual University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) Professional Forums to be held in:

Region 1 November 14, 2007 DMACC Campus Ankeny, Iowa
Region 2, Nov 8, 2007 North Iowa Community College Mason City, Iowa
Region 3 Nov 7, 2007 Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Milford, Iowa
Region 4 Nov 13 2007 Cass County Community Center, Atlantic, Iowa
Region 5 Nov 28, 2007 Jefferson County Hospital, Fairfield, Iowa
Region 6 Nov 27, 2007 Northeast Iowa Community College, Dubuque, Iowa

Vaccine University

Next month, the Immunization Program staff will be traveling throughout the state to 16 sites to present the latest information regarding the VFC Program, vaccine storage and handling, and Iowa's Immunization Law. This conference is designed to be of interest to pharmacists, nurses, certified medical assistants, medical assistants, office and support staff, administrative staff, medical and nursing students, and anyone who is responsible for vaccine storage and handling or administration.

This conference is offered free of charge, and will include course materials and continuing education credits for nurses, pharmacists, and CMAs who are members of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA).

For more information call (515) 309-3315 or visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/immunization/immunization_university.pdf for location of the sites. To register online go to www.trainingresources.org

Have a healthy and happy week! Hope you can get out and enjoy the wonderful fall weather.

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