

EPI Update for Friday October 5, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **IDPH's Influenza Web site recently updated**
- **Scabies among refugees**
- **Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) project update**
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**
- **Disability Awareness Month**
- **Second Annual International Infection Prevention Week**
- **Meeting announcement and training opportunities**

IDPH's Influenza Web site recently updated

Please take a moment to browse our influenza Web pages. These pages contain fact sheets and numerous links to influenza information for both the general public and health care professionals. Also, there are links to the Flu Clinic Locator tool sponsored by the American Lung Association and to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Web site. For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/flu.asp.

Scabies among refugees

There have been reports of scabies among Burmese refugees recently resettled in the United States. These refugees were housed in refugee camps in Thailand along the border with Burma.

Scabies is an infestation by a mite that produces intense itching and skin lesions particularly between the fingers, on the wrists, elbows, armpits, waistline, genitalia, navel, thighs, breasts, abdomen, buttocks and other skin folds. Scabies is found commonly in crowded settings, such as refugee camps, jails and other congregated settings. The infestation is transmitted person to person by prolonged, close, direct contact with infested skin and also by sexual contact. However, when scabies mites have burrowed into the skin between the fingers and on the wrists, the mite can be transmitted by touching or shaking hands of an infested person.

Scabies is not a new problem. It is not unique to refugees. Please consider the diagnosis of scabies in recently arrived refugees who have itching and skin lesions. More information about scabies can be found on the IDPH's Web site at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/epifacts/scabies.pdf> or at CDC's Web site at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/scabies/factsheet_scabies.htm.

Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) project update

The Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) continues to prepare for statewide implementation of this electronic disease reporting system. Feedback from the pilot sites have helped IDPH understand how IDSS will function at the local level. The goal is to begin statewide rollout by the end of 2007. IDSS will be installed gradually throughout the state over the course of eight weeks. A series of 1-hour training conference calls will be offered. Please direct any questions about IDSS to John Satre at 515-242-5090 or jsatre@idph.state.ia.us.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This year in America, more than 211,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 43,300 die. One woman in eight either has or will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. In addition, 1,600 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 400 will die this year. If detected early, the five-year survival rate exceeds 95 percent. Mammograms are among the best early detection methods, yet 13 million U.S. women 40 years of age or older have never had a mammogram.

Disability Awareness Month

Today, about 50 million Americans, or one in five people, are living with at least one disability, and most Americans will experience a disability at some time during the course of their lives. Some disabilities are easy to see, such as when a person uses a wheelchair or when someone has lost an arm. Other disabilities, like a developmental disability such as autism or a chronic condition like arthritis are not easy to see.

In recognition of Disability Awareness Month, CDC encourages everyone to learn more about what is being done to identify the causes of developmental disabilities, and efforts to promote the health and well-being of people with disabilities within the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd.

Second Annual International Infection Prevention Week

October 14th – 20th 2007 is International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW). IIPW is an annual event that educates health care workers, health care administrators, legislators and consumers about the importance of reducing the risk of infections. This year's theme is "Infection Prevention--it's in your hands." Governor Culver has signed a proclamation for Infection Prevention week in Iowa. For a copy of the proclamation, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/proclomation_infection_prevention.pdf.

This proclamation is for you to use to promote infection prevention in your facility and community. For additional information, visit http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Education/InfectionPreventionWeek/2007InternationalInfectionPreventionWeek/IIPW_2007_Home.htm .

Meeting announcement and training opportunities

Upper Respiratory Infections - Antibiotics or Not

Tuesday, October 30

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

This teleconference will be presented by the Iowa Antibiotic Resistance Task Force and is intended for physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners who prescribe antibiotics. It will discuss the diagnosis and management (i.e., standard of care) of upper respiratory infections. For a teleconference flyer and to register, visit

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/grand_grounds_flyer.pdf .

The Iowa Department of Public Health and the University Hygienic Laboratory are conducting a series of Flu Fundamentals teleconferences on the following dates:

Flu Fundamentals for Health Care Providers: Focus on Iowa Surveillance
10/23/2007

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Target Audience: Physicians, clinic directors, nurses, infection control practitioners, health care providers, local public health. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Oct. 19, 2007

Flu Fundamentals for Schools: Focus on Prevention and Intervention
10/30/2007

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Target Audience: School nurses and administrators, local public health, day care providers REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Oct. 26, 2007

Flu Fundamentals for Schools: Focus on Prevention and Intervention
11/06/2007

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Target Audience: Laboratory technologists, administrators, health care providers, local public health REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 2, 2007

For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/calendar/calendar.aspx.

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

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