

EPI Update for Friday, December 7, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **What Makes Iowans Sick?**
- ***Salmonella* case linked to dry pet food outbreak**
- **EPI Manual update - Hepatitis A chapter**
- **Don't blame it on the animals – human crypto strain confirmed**

What Makes Iowans Sick?

The Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) has completed its 2006 annual report outlining the common and unusual illnesses that afflicted Iowans in 2006. The year 2006 was one of the busiest in recent years. There were 5,517 cases of infectious disease reported to CADE in 2006, an increase of more than 1,700 (45 percent) from the previous year.

The increase can be attributed to:

- A nationwide mumps epidemic which started and had its biggest impact in Iowa. Nearly 2,000 confirmed mumps cases were submitted to CADE in a 6-month period;
- Fifty *E. coli* O157:H7 cases linked to an outbreak at a fast food chain restaurant where lettuce was determined to be the source of infection; and
- An increase in *Cryptosporidium* cases.

In contrast, 2006 saw significant decreases in diseases such as hepatitis A and pertussis (whooping cough). To review the annual report, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/cade_annual_report_2006.pdf.

***Salmonella* case linked to dry pet food outbreak**

A human case of *Salmonella* serotype *Schwarzengrund* has been identified in Iowa. This patient's illness is connected to the national outbreak that started last summer, and has been linked to dry pet food. DNA fingerprinting of the patient's isolate (performed by the University Hygienic Laboratory) confirmed it was the same as the outbreak strain. Local public health officials conducted interviews with the patient confirmed exposure to dry pet food. The patient's dog had consumed dry pet food that was on FDA's recall list for being contaminated with *Salmonella*.

Since January 2006, over 60 human cases nationwide have been identified. No pets have become ill from this *Salmonella Schwarzengrund* outbreak. The human outbreak strain of *Salmonella Schwarzengrund* has been found in fecal samples of two dogs that ate dry pet food in the homes of two patients. Factors increasing the risk of human illness include handling and storage of dry pet food, hand washing practices, exposure of children to dry pet food, and the location in the home where pets are fed.

For more information on safe handling of pet foods, visit <http://www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/petfoodtips080307.html> .

For a list of dry pet food brands that have been recalled, visit www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/petfoodrecall.

EPI Manual update - Hepatitis A chapter

The EPI Manual Hepatitis A chapter has been updated on the IDPH Web site. This new update includes the new recommendations for use of hepatitis A vaccine (in persons ages 12 months through 40 years of age) for hepatitis A post-exposure prophylaxis. Also updated is the section on International Travel recommendations.

The following sections were also updated to reflect the new recommendations: Hepatitis A – Child Care Fact Sheet; Hepatitis A - Child Care Center Administrators Fact Sheet; Hepatitis A – Sample Letter to Parents - outbreak; Hepatitis A – Sample Letter to Parents - one case; Hepatitis A - Sample Letter to Administrator - outbreak; Hepatitis A - Options for Hepatitis A vaccine or IG – Child Care; Hepatitis A – Parental consent of IG; and Hepatitis A Fact Sheet. A new document is the Hepatitis A – Food Handler Suspected of Having Hepatitis A worksheet.

For more information on the new Hepatitis A recommendations, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5641a3.htm.

The chapter and updated sections should be replaced in all hard copies of the manual. All documents can be found at www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual.

Don't blame it on the animals – human crypto strain confirmed

This summer, Iowa and several other states, experienced substantial increases in *Cryptosporidium* illness associated with recreational water exposure. As of December 6, Iowa has confirmed 601 *Cryptosporidium* cases, which represent a 323 percent increase over last year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is able to differentiate *Cryptosporidium* species and genotypes, which can aid in the identification of origin of infection. Ten positive *Cryptosporidium* stools and two backwash pool

water sediment samples collected from a swimming pool were sent to CDC for analysis. All ten samples submitted were classified by CDC as *Cryptosporidium hominis*, which is a species that circulates within human populations rather than domestic or wild animals. The results demonstrated two subtypes of *C. hominis*: IbA10G2 and IaA28R4. Because there were two different subtypes causing illness, CDC stated that there was likely more than one outbreak occurring in Iowa this summer.

Understanding the epidemiology of this situation could have only occurred with the great work of the local public health departments and clinical laboratories that submitted fresh stool samples to the University Hygienic Laboratory. We also appreciate the tests that CDC performed, which resulted in this molecular epidemiological information.

To prevent cryptosporidiosis in recreational water and child care centers, visit www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming.

More information on this issue will be discussed at the Spring 2008 Iowa Public Health Association Conference.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None.

Have a healthy, happy and snowy week!

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