

EPI Update for Friday, February 29, 2008
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Investigation of pediatric deaths**
- **Influenza update**
- **Revised directions for using rabies immune globulin (human)**
- **Measles – the risk is still present**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Investigation of pediatric deaths

The Iowa Department of Public Health is investigating a cluster of approximately 20 pediatric deaths which have occurred in counties across the state of Iowa between December 2007 and today. The deaths have occurred in children less than four years of age.

Most children had mild to severe respiratory symptoms prior to death. Multiple viruses have been isolated in laboratory tests including influenza A and B, respiratory syncytial viruses (RSV), and adenoviruses. At this time it is unknown whether these viral infections were the principal cause of death. This number of deaths is higher than the expected number of deaths for this time of year.

IDPH, including the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) and the State Medical Examiner's Office, is collaborating with other states and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and University Hygienic Laboratory in this investigation. Health care providers are encouraged to contact CADE at 1-800-362-2736 with information about:

- cases similar to those in the cluster
- cases of severe pediatric illness with respiratory symptoms of unknown etiology
- cases of viral infection, including influenza, with rare or unusual complications, such as acute necrotizing encephalitis and hepatitis

We are asking the parents of young children to:

- 1) Keep children away from people with respiratory diseases/symptoms
- 2) Keep children home from child care or school when ill
- 3) Vaccinate all children with flu vaccine
- 4) Wash hands before carrying or playing with young children
- 5) Avoid situations where large numbers of people gather, because some may be ill

Influenza update

Iowa is seeing slightly higher numbers of lab-confirmed influenza cases in the age group of 25- to 64-year-olds. Both young children and those over 64 account for the highest numbers of hospitalizations attributed to influenza for this reporting week. The percentage of physician visits due to influenza-like-illness remains high. Nationally, widespread activity was reported by 49 states. For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/iisn.

Revised directions for using rabies immune globulin (human)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been notified by Talecris Biotherapeutics, Inc. that its Rabies Immune Globulin (Human), HyperRAB S/D in fixed needle 2 mL pre-filled syringe does not address all dosing situations. Specifically, the fixed needle (22 gauge, 1.25 inch) and the absence of graduations on the 2 mL pre-filled syringe do not permit administration of the recommended dose of Rabies Immune Globulin (Human), HyperRAB S/D in one or more of the following situations:

- A dose < 2 mL is required (e.g. for pediatric use);
- A dose < 2 mL must be injected over multiple sites; or
- An alternate needle (different length or gauge) is required based on the patient (adult or child), wound or site of injection.

Three lots of HyperRAB™ S/D have been manufactured with the 2 mL pre-filled syringe configuration (see Table below):

Lot Number	Expiration Date	Size/Container	NDC Number
26N87R1	Jan-26-2009	2 mL pre-filled syringe	13533-618-03
26N88K1	Jan-26-2009	2 mL pre-filled syringe	13533-618-03
26N9HP1	Feb-18-2010	2 mL pre-filled syringe	13533-618-03

Health care providers may continue to administer HyperRAB™ S/D supplied in the 2 mL pre-filled syringe by following the “Revised Directions for Use” that are packaged with these lots. The full “Revised Directions for Use” of these lots is available on-line at

www.talecris.com/us/documents/FINAL_FDA_Approved_Revised_Directions_for_Syringe_Use_21-FEB-08.pdf. Talecris has discontinued manufacturing the HyperRAB S/D fixed needle, 2 mL pre-filled syringe.

For additional information regarding this product, please contact Talecris 919-412-1030, or toll free at 1-800-520-2807.

Human rabies PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) is recommended when potentially infectious material (e.g., saliva) from a rabid animal is introduced via a bite, or comes into direct contact with broken skin or mucous membranes. More detailed information regarding evaluation for and administration of PEP is available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00056176.htm. For more

information about rabies and its prevention, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/rabies or CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.cdc.gov/rabies.

Measles – the risk is still present.

Several outbreaks of measles have recently been reported in the U.S. In the last two months, in San Diego, California, 11 cases of measles have occurred in unvaccinated children who were exposed to a child who had recently traveled to Europe with his family. Switzerland has had an ongoing outbreak for the last 15 months. The possibility of importation of measles into Iowa is higher than usual.

Health care providers should remember to consider measles in ill persons who have traveled overseas or to areas having outbreaks of measles. If measles is suspected, use appropriate infection control strategies to prevent transmission in the health care setting. Meanwhile, maintain high coverage with measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine among children and health care workers.

Visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_isolation for infection control guidelines. Visit immunize.org/catg.d/p2010 for the Summary of Recommendations for Childhood and Adolescent Immunization and immunize.org/catg.d/p2011 for the Summary of Recommendations for Adult Immunization.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Save the date

The 2008 Iowa Public Health Conference will be held April 1 and 2, in Ames at the Scheman Conference Center in Ames, Iowa. To download the conference brochure or to register online, click on www.iowapha.org/DocumentHandler.ashx?DocId=5737 .

Have a healthy and happy week! Spring will come someday.

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800-362-2736