

EPI Update for Friday, June 13, 2008
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Tetanus immunizations during flooding**
- **Salmonellosis outbreak linked to tomatoes update**
- **Summer swimming and boating tips**
- **U.S. life expectancy tops 78 as top diseases decline**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Tetanus immunizations during flooding

The need for tetanus vaccination during flood recovery depends upon individual circumstances. The same recommendations that apply at any other time also apply during a flood. Thus, individuals are generally advised to receive a routine tetanus booster dose every 10 years. People who are cut or injured and have not received, or are unsure if they have received a tetanus vaccine within the last five years, should receive a booster dose of vaccine. There is generally no need for mass tetanus immunization programs during flooding, and it is not a standard recommendation.

Vaccine availability:

- Td/Tdap vaccine is available for local public health agencies to order through the Iowa Department of Public Health, Immunization Program. This vaccine can be used for indicated individuals who do not have insurance or have no other means of obtaining the vaccine.
- Orders for the Td/Tdap for the recent flood response should be placed through IRIS. To expedite the shipment, you **MUST** indicate that this is flood-related under the special instructions on IRIS.
- All vaccine doses administered, which were obtained from IDPH, must be entered into IRIS for vaccine accountability.

Questions regarding Td/Tdap vaccine should be directed to the Immunization Program. Call Terri Thornton at 1-800-831-6293, ext. 2, or Don Callaghan at 515-473-8344.

For more information, visit

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/pdf/floodreadiness.pdf> or
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/pdf/workersafety.pdf>

Salmonellosis outbreak linked to tomatoes update

Since April, at least 200 persons infected with *Salmonella* Saintpaul with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 24 states. Patients range in age from 1 to 88 years, and 47 percent are female. At least 25 persons were hospitalized. No deaths have been officially attributed to this outbreak. Two people in Iowa have been identified with *Salmonella* Saintpaul and are thus linked to this outbreak. Investigation is ongoing.

The specific type and source of tomatoes is under investigation; however, the data suggest that illnesses are linked to consumption of raw red plum, red Roma, and round red tomatoes, and products containing these raw tomatoes. At this time, FDA is advising U.S. consumers to limit their tomato consumption to those that are not the likely source of this outbreak. These include cherry tomatoes; grape tomatoes; tomatoes sold with the vine still attached; tomatoes grown at home; and red plum, red Roma, and round red tomatoes from specific sources (see below websites for more information on these sources). Consumers should be aware that raw tomatoes are used in many foods, including fresh salsa, guacamole, pico de gallo, and tortilla dishes.

Customers everywhere are advised to:

- Refrigerate within two hours or discard cut, peeled, or cooked tomatoes.
- Avoid purchasing bruised or damaged tomatoes and discard any that appear spoiled.
- Thoroughly wash all tomatoes under running water.
- Keep tomatoes that will be consumed raw separate from raw meats, raw seafood, and raw produce items.
- Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and counter tops with hot water and soap when switching between types of food products.

For more information, visit www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html or www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul/

Summer swimming and boating tips

As summer and warmer weather approaches, many Iowans will participate in outdoor activities, including boating and swimming. IDPH recommends Iowans follow these swimming and boating safety tips:

- Never swim alone, no matter how good a swimmer you are.
- Supervise children at all times.
- Inflatable toys are no substitute for swimming skills.
- Alcohol and swimming is a deadly combination. Around 50 percent of drowning victims are related to alcohol consumption.
- Always use approved personal flotation devices (life jackets) when boating.
- Don't jump or dive into unknown bodies of water.
- Never consume alcohol when operating a boat or other watercraft.

- Know the local weather conditions and forecast before boating.
- Know your limits. Even without drinking, hours of exposure to sun, wind, watercraft noise and vibrations, may impair your reaction time.

U.S. life expectancy tops 78 as top diseases decline

For the first time, U.S. life expectancy has surpassed 78 years, the government reported recently, although the United States continues to lag behind about 30 other countries in estimated life span. The increase is due mainly to falling mortality rates in almost all the leading causes of death, federal health officials said. The average life expectancy for babies born in 2006 was about four months greater than for children born in 2005.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

The Iowa Department of Public Health Immunization Program is proud to present Vaccine University 2008. Classes will begin July 8th across the state. IDPH Immunization Program will offer Basic Vaccine 101, Storage and Handling (a repeat of the class from November 2007), and Hands-on IRIS Training.

For more information visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp .

Have a healthy and happy week!

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