

EPI Update for Friday, June 20, 2008
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Flooded wells in rural Iowa**
- **Hepatitis A vaccine during flooding**
- **Rabies vaccine availability**
- **Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network report is now available**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Flooded wells in rural Iowa

Recent and continued flooding has affected wells, especially in rural Iowa. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) urges well owners to be aware of safety precautions regarding flooded wells. Contaminated well water should not be used for drinking, cooking, laundry or bathing. Safety measures for well owners who suspect water contamination include:

- Obtain water from a known safe source, or use bottled water.
- Bring the well water to a rolling boil for one minute. Boiling for a longer period of time may concentrate chemicals that could be in the water.
- After flood waters have receded and it is safe to check your well, it is important to shock chlorinate your well with bleach.
- Two days after chlorination has occurred; well water needs to be tested by a laboratory. Continue to use bottled water or a safe water supply for drinking, cooking, laundry and bathing until a laboratory has verified that your well water is safe to drink.
- Contact your county environmental health office for assistance in collecting and testing a water sample.

For more information on the chlorination process visit:

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/>

Hepatitis A vaccine during flooding

There have been concerns of Hepatitis A during flooding. National immunization guidelines do not recommend hepatitis A vaccination during flooding. Studies conducted among U.S. workers exposed to raw sewage do not indicate increased risk for hepatitis A virus infection.

The risk of being exposed to hepatitis A in flood waters is very low due to the low rate of hepatitis A in our Iowa communities, and the dilution by the flood waters. Hepatitis A outbreaks have not occurred after recent floods or after hurricanes in other parts of the country, including the devastating hurricanes in the last several years.

Routine indications for Hepatitis A vaccine include the following:

- All children at age 1 year (i.e. 12–23 months).
- Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Users of injection and non-injection drugs.
- Persons with clotting-factor disorders (e.g., hemophilia).
- Persons with chronic liver disease.
- Children living in areas with increased rates of hepatitis A during the baseline period of 1987-1997 (this does not include Iowa).
- Persons who work with hepatitis A virus in a laboratory setting.

Questions regarding hepatitis A vaccine should be directed to the Immunization Program, 800-831-6293, Terri Thornton extension 2 or Don Callaghan at 515-473-8344.

For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5507a1.htm

Rabies vaccine availability

Rabies vaccine is in short supply, as one of the manufacturers, Novartis, has taken RabAvert® production temporarily off line. RabAvert® vaccine supplies from Novartis are depleted, and remaining doses will only be released under the recommendation of CDC. RabAvert® is expected back on the market in August 2008.

Vaccine is available for pre and post exposure prophylaxis from Sanofi Pasteur IMOVAX® (800-822-2463) Pre-exposure prophylaxis requests for high risk individuals (veterinarians, animal control officers, emergency responders, laboratorians) must be made through the Iowa Department of Public Health. During business hours call (800) 362-2736 and after hours call (515) 323-4360 (Iowa State Patrol will contact the person on call). Requests for post-exposure prophylaxis can be made directly to Sanofi Pasteur (800-822-2463).

Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network report is now available

The Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network (IISN) Final Report for 2007-2008 is now available. The report is posted on the IDPH influenza website. The report contains summaries of all the flu surveillance programs conducted in Iowa throughout this past flu season. The 2007- 2008 season was the most severe since 2004 and impacted all ages of Iowans.

To review the report visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/iisn.asp.

For more information on influenza surveillance, contact the program coordinator, Meghan Harris, at 515-281-7134 or mharris@idph.state.ia.us.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Save the date

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

Save the date

There will be a new Foundational Public Health Nursing Training coming soon for Iowa nurses interested in public health training. This course will be delivered online at: www.prepareiowa.com. For more information, contact Laurie Walkner at: laurie-walkner@uiowa.edu.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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800-362-2736