

EPI Update for Friday, August 1, 2008
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Possible source of *Salmonella* Saintpaul outbreak identified**
- **Iowa Surveillance of Notifiable and Other Diseases - Annual Report 2007 now available**
- **Update on the Iowa Disease Surveillance System**
- **Three "nice" things to say about mosquitoes**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Possible source of *Salmonella* Saintpaul outbreak identified

Public health officials have announced the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Saintpaul was identified from serrano peppers and a sample of irrigation water obtained at a farm in Mexico. The farm was a supplier to a distributor in Mexico. Since April, more than 1,319 persons infected with *Salmonella* Saintpaul with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 43 states, including two in Iowa.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers that jalapeño and serrano peppers grown in the United States are not connected with the *Salmonella* Saintpaul outbreak. Consumers can eat them and any tomatoes sold in the United States without concern of contamination.

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

Iowa Surveillance of Notifiable and Other Diseases Annual Report 2007 now available

The Iowa Surveillance of Notifiable and Other Diseases Annual Report 2007 has been released. The report contains a synopsis of all diseases reported to the Division of Acute Disease Prevention and Emergency Response (the division in which CADE sits).

The report is organized by disease type; county-specific data are provided in a table and in several maps in the individual disease sections. The report is intended to highlight the incidence and prevalence of infectious disease in Iowa. For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper.

We want to make this report as useful to you as possible, so please submit any comments, suggestions, or questions to Meg Harris at mharris@idph.state.ia.us

Update on the Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS)

Statewide implementation of IDSS, the statewide Web-based disease reporting system, is to begin late September 2008. Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology shall start using IDSS internally for a few weeks, followed by facilities that assisted with the 2007 pilot project.

Facilities will be invited to begin using IDSS by region beginning with central Iowa, then eastern Iowa, followed by the northeast, northwest, north central, and southeast areas of Iowa, in that order. Each stage will last one to two weeks with IDSS availability statewide by mid-December.

For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/idss.asp.

Three “nice” things to say about mosquitoes

As science writer David Quammen, wrote many years ago in Outside magazine, there are a few nice things that can be said about mosquitoes:

- Half of them won't bite you, because they are male. In his words, "A male mosquito lives his short, gentle adult life content, like a swallowtail butterfly, to sip nectar from flowers."
- A female mosquito is just being a good mother, and although nectar will deliver energy for wing muscles it won't help her produce roughly 2000 eggs over her lifetime. For that she needs the protein from a blood meal.
- In addition, we can give the female mosquito credit for providing food for fish and other aquatic animals from the larvae that hatch from all those mosquito eggs.

No matter what you think about mosquitoes, don't forget to use a good mosquito repellent when you are out contemplating nature!

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Save the date: September 16, 2008, Ankeny, IA

Biosafety and Biosecurity: Minimizing the Risks in the Laboratory

This workshop for is intended to give microbiology lab staff and management the tools and training to keep safe and secure in today's microbiology lab. More information on content and registration shall be available soon.

Have a safe, healthy and happy week!

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Iowa Department of Public Health

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