

**EPI Update for Friday, August 8, 2008**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**Items for this week's EPI Update include:**

- **Update on rabies vaccine availability**
- **Iowa State Fair - You Gotta Love it!!**
- **Remain vigilant in protecting yourself against mosquitoes and ticks**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Update on rabies vaccine availability**

Post-exposure prophylaxis:

Novartis Vaccines has announced that its rabies vaccine RabAvert® is now available for post-exposure prophylaxis only. Health care providers wanting this vaccine should place orders directly through their Novartis wholesaler. The rabies vaccine IMOVAX® manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur is still available for post exposure prophylaxis and can ordered by calling (800-822-2463).

Pre-exposure prophylaxis:

This procedure has not changed. Requests for pre-exposure prophylaxis must be made through the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) by calling (800) 362-2736 during business hours. Pre-exposure vaccine will be released for high risk individuals such as veterinarians, animal control officers, emergency responders, and laboratorians after the approval of state public health authorities.

**The Iowa State Fair - You Gotta Love It!!**

Here are a few tips to make your trip to the State Fair safe and enjoyable:

- Drink plenty of water and other non-alcoholic fluids and wear light-weight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes.
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking, handling bottles and pacifiers, and after petting animals or touching animal enclosures.
- Wear sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Remember, the elderly, young children, and those with certain medical conditions are most susceptible to heat problems and illness.

## **Remain vigilant in protecting yourself against mosquitoes and ticks**

### *Mosquitoes:*

Last Friday, the first human case of West Nile virus disease in Iowa was confirmed, and several more potential human cases are being investigated at this time. Recently a mosquito pool in Scott County tested positive for West Nile virus.

As a result, IDPH strongly recommends:

- Use insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Check label for correct use.
- Wear protective clothing, such as long sleeves, long pants, socks and shoes if possible.
- Eliminate standing water around the home because that's where mosquitoes breed. At least twice a week, empty water from flower pots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels and cans or any thing else that can hold water sufficient for mosquitoes to breed.
- Avoid being outdoors during peak hours of mosquito activity-dusk and dawn.

For more information on West Nile virus visit:

[www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/wnv\\_surveillance.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/wnv_surveillance.asp).

### *Ticks:*

The Iowa tick surveillance program, conducted by Iowa State University Medical Entomology Laboratory and the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, has recently processed a large number of ticks and many of them tested positive for the organism that causes Lyme disease.

IDPH reminds Iowans to take the following prevention measures:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and tuck pants into socks.
- Wear light-colored clothing so it's easier to see ticks.
- Use repellent especially made for ticks (one containing DEET).
- Regularly check yourself and your family for ticks, especially around the head and neck. Also check pets that have been outside.

For more information on the tick surveillance program at Iowa State University Medical Entomology Laboratory visit: [www.ent.iastate.edu/medent/](http://www.ent.iastate.edu/medent/)

## **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

**Have a healthy and happy week! Hope you enjoy the cooler weather.**

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

800-362-2736