

**EPI Update for Friday, August 22, 2008**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

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

- **Updated rabies vaccine shortage information**
- **Bat-related rabies exposures on the rise**
- **Mandatory blood lead testing Web site**
- **CADE has new employees**

**Updated rabies vaccine shortage information**

As you have read in previous editions of the Friday Update, rabies vaccine is currently in short supply. The guidance for acquiring rabies vaccine is changing on almost a weekly basis. For this reason, Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has added a link at the top of the Rabies Page on the IDPH Web site. This link will provide current information on product availability and guidelines for ordering product. For more information visit:

[www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies\\_vaccine\\_ordering\\_instructions.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies_vaccine_ordering_instructions.pdf)

**Bat-related rabies exposures on the rise**

In the past two weeks, IDPH has noted a substantial increase in the number of bat-related rabies consultation calls. Traditionally, IDPH has seen an increase in these types of calls in August and September.

According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, bats usually migrate in August and September, when days begin to shorten. Silver-haired, hoary, evening, red, and Indiana bats migrate from Iowa, and return in May. Big and little brown, eastern pipistrelles, and northern myotis bats tend to hibernate in caves in eastern Iowa counties. The big brown bat is the species that most commonly hibernates in homes in Iowa during the winter. Another potential explanation for the increased calls regarding human – bat interaction is that bat populations are highest during these months as the young pups are now mobile and moving throughout Iowa.

Anyone exposed to a bat should seek medical attention; exposure may include:

- Finding a bat in the room of an unattended child or incapacitated person
- Waking up to find a bat in the room

- Being bitten by a bat

Bat exposures pose a special problem because bat bites are difficult to detect on the skin and may not be noticed. If there is any physical contact with a bat, the area should be washed immediately and thoroughly with soap and water, and medical advice should be sought.

If an exposure has occurred, the bat should be captured if possible and submitted for testing. Avoid damaging the bat's head during capture, because an intact brain is essential for rabies testing. Deceased bats should be kept cool at refrigerator temperatures, but not frozen. Rabies treatment is usually recommended if the bat cannot be submitted for testing.

IDPH provides 24 hour consultation for rabies. During business hours call 800-362-2736 and after-hours 515-323-4360 (the State Patrol will page the on-call medical staff).

#### **Mandatory blood lead testing Web site**

Last week's Epi Update contained an article on mandatory blood lead testing. For more information on this topic visit:

[www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead\\_poisoning\\_prevention.asp#testing](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead_poisoning_prevention.asp#testing)

#### **CADE has new employees!**

##### **Mary Fournier**, Epidemiology Intelligence Surveillance (EIS) Officer

Mary is the new EIS officer assigned by CDC to Iowa for the next two years. Mary received her M.D. from Saint Louis University School of Medicine and MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. She completed pediatric residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, and fellowship in Adolescent Medicine at Children's Hospital Boston. She can be reached at (515) 242-6027 and [mfourine@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:mfourine@idph.state.ia.us).

##### **Rob Ramaekers**, Region 4 Epidemiologist

Rob is the new Region 4 Epidemiologist. He has a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Iowa and an MPH from Des Moines University. He worked 7 years in the Department of Pathology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and 10 years at Fort Dodge Animal Health. His employment with IDPH began with an internship working on Healthy Iowans 2010 followed by an internship/temporary position in CADE where he worked on the "Iowa Gets Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work" program. He then worked in the Environmental Health area as an Environmental Specialist Senior in Lead Poisoning Prevention. He can be reached at (515) 281-0247 and [rmaeke@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:rmaeke@idph.state.ia.us).

**Diana Von Stein, Epidemiologist**

Diana has a B.S. in Microbiology and an MPH in Epidemiology, both from the University of Iowa. Her most recent position was with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Iowa City as a Research Scientist. She has an extensive background in laboratory-based research including real-time PCR and microbiology. Her previous work focused on hospital-associated infections, especially MRSA and VRE. She can be reached at 515-242-5114 and [dvonstei@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:dvonstei@idph.state.ia.us).

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

The Centers for Disease Control offers many online courses on bio-emergency preparedness. If you are developing, updating or exercising your plans, these classes are a great resource for guidance and scenarios. For more information visit: [www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/phel.asp](http://www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/phel.asp).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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Iowa Department of Public Health  
800-362-2736