

**EPI Update for Friday, May 15, 2009**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **IDPH is returning to normal business practices**
- **Updated Novel Influenza A (H1N1) testing guidelines**
- **Infection control and the use of masks in health care settings**
- **Outpatient influenza surveillance sites needed**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**IDPH is returning to normal business practices**

As of 4:30 pm today (Friday, May 15, 2009) IDPH will no longer be functioning under incident command structure. This means the public and health care provider call center numbers will be discontinued. Please call the regular CADE number at 800-362-2736 with questions or to report cases. Novel Influenza (H1N1) reporting will be done using routine disease reporting practices.

**Updated Novel Influenza A (H1N1) testing guidelines**

The updated testing guidelines are effective as of today, May 15, 2009. IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that all health care providers follow these criteria when determining which patients should have specimens submitted to the University Hygienic Laboratory for Novel Influenza A(H1N1) testing:

Patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) **and**

- at high-risk for developing complications from influenza **or**
- hospitalized with ILI.

For complete guidelines go to [www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/publichealth.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/publichealth.asp)

**Infection control and the use of masks in health care settings**

IDPH has updated the guidelines for infection control in health care settings.

These can be found at

[www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/common/pdf/infection\\_control\\_use\\_of\\_masks\\_and\\_respirators\\_ins\\_hc\\_settings.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/common/pdf/infection_control_use_of_masks_and_respirators_ins_hc_settings.pdf)

**Outpatient influenza surveillance sites needed**

As the specific public health response to novel influenza A(H1N1) slows, the need for passive surveillance is even more important.

The Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network is in great need for additional outpatient clinic sites willing to report influenza activity on a weekly basis (including throughout the summer). Sites must have internet access and must routinely see

patients of any age who might have influenza (includes pediatric, geriatric, or student health clinics). Reporting will now continue year-round to improve the ability to detect unusual influenza activity. Surveillance sites are asked to report the following on a weekly basis:

- Total number of patients seen by age group (0-4, 5-24, 25-64, >64)
- Total number of patients meeting the definition of influenza-like illness by age group (0-4, 5-24, 25-64, >64)

Sites receive **free confirmatory testing** performed by the University Hygienic Laboratory (does not include rapid testing). CDC also provides **free subscriptions** to the Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal.

For more information or to enroll, contact Meghan Harris at 515-281-7134 or [mharris@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:mharris@idph.state.ia.us).

### **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

The 2009 Iowa Immunization Conference, "Immunize for a Better Life," will be held on June 10-11 in Des Moines. The cost is only \$40/person. The conference is designed to be of interest to a diverse field of health care professionals and will feature nationally recognized speakers, including Dr. Paul Offit from the Vaccine Education Center and Dr. Bill Atkinson from CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. The brochure is located at [www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/immunization/conf\\_card.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/immunization/conf_card.pdf). To register go to [www.trainingresources.org/ViewConf.aspx?id=1355](http://www.trainingresources.org/ViewConf.aspx?id=1355).

### **Have a healthy and happy week!**

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800-362-2736