

**EPI Update for Friday, March 5, 2010**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

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

- **Presumptive abortive human rabies**
- **Potential increase in requests for adult blood lead testing**
- **Expanded recommendation for annual influenza vaccination**
- **Did you know about these free immunization products?**
- **Spring is nearly sprung and with it, more risk for rabies exposure**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Presumptive abortive human rabies**

The first case of presumptive abortive human rabies, based on clinical and serologic findings, was recently reported. A 17-year-old girl in Texas presented with symptoms consistent with rabies, serologic tests were positive for rabies, and despite extensive medical investigation, no other etiology was found. She was hospitalized, managed supportively, and never required intensive care. Only her boyfriend met the criteria for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. For more information see [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5907a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5907a1.htm).

**Potential increase in requests for adult blood lead testing**

On January 13, 2010, Iowa Code revisions were made that require renovators who work in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities (daycare centers, kindergarten classrooms, etc.) to be trained and certified, including more education on lead exposure. Over the next few months, this training and certification may result in an increase in requests for adult blood lead testing.

To test adults, collect a venous specimen according to specifications of the laboratory (if tested as part of an occupational monitoring program, the laboratory must be OSHA approved; see [www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodlead/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodlead/index.html)). The employer's name should be reported as part of Iowa's mandatory reporting of all blood lead test results. For more information, contact the IDPH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 800-972-2026 or go to [www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead\\_poisoning\\_prevention.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead_poisoning_prevention.asp).

**Expanded recommendation for annual influenza vaccination**

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted on February 24 to expand next year's influenza vaccination recommendations to include all people 6 months of age and older. For more information, see [www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/r100224.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/r100224.htm)

**Did you know about these free immunization products?**

Did you know that IDPH offers free printed products to assist you with immunizations? Products include *Certificates of Immunization*, *Parent Immunization Record*, *Adult Immunization Record*, a slide rule summarizing immunization law, as well as a number of informational brochures, posters, and vaccine information statements (in English and Spanish). Large orders can be made on the IDPH Web site and shipped directly to your office. If only a couple are needed, most documents can be printed from the Web site.

[www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization\\_products.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization_products.asp)

### **Spring is nearly sprung and with it more risk for rabies exposure**

As Spring approaches, outdoor activities will be increasing along with the possibility of more contact with wildlife. Follow these simple recommendations to decrease your chances of coming in contact with a rabid animal:

- Do not feed or handle wild or stray animals. Avoid sick animals or those that act strangely.
- Do not touch or handle dead animals.
- Cover garbage cans and keep pet food indoors.
- Do not keep wild animals as pets.
- Never handle bats.

Many exotic pets (such as coatimundi, to which an Iowan was exposed this week), are considered wild animals when evaluating for potential rabies exposure. For more information, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/rabies.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/rabies.asp).

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

2010 Iowa Annual Laboratory Meeting, Altoona, Iowa, April 14-16. This is a continuing education and clinical laboratory professional networking opportunity. For more information, go to [www.ascls-ia.org/2010meeting.htm](http://www.ascls-ia.org/2010meeting.htm).

### **Have a healthy and happy week (and rainy - not snowy)!**

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