## EPI Update for Friday, January 28, 2011 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

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

- The cost of containing pertussis in a school and community
- Reminder to report chickenpox outbreaks
- New treatment for lice
- Smoke detectors save lives

#### The cost of containing pertussis in a school and community

Controlling outbreaks of pertussis are resource-intensive and expensive for public health agencies. A recent study done in Omaha, Nebraska, focused on a student who had introduced pertussis into a local school with 600 students. The estimated cost of stopping the pertussis outbreak was \$52,000, along with 1,000 hours of staff time. Other effects not analyzed in this study included medical expenses for the patient and for public health, delays for other public health functions, and increased stress on the staff. For the full report, visit cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6001a2.htm.

#### Reminder to report chickenpox outbreaks

Reports of chickenpox outbreaks are being submitted to CDC as a part of a national vaccine effectiveness study. Please continue to report school outbreaks to CADE at 800-362-2736.

Three chickenpox outbreaks were reported in the last six months and this data has been submitted as part of the study. When a final report on the study becomes available, it will be provided. For further information about the study, contact CADE at 800-362-2736.

#### New treatment for lice

The FDA has approved a new treatment for lice in patients ages 4 years and older. Natroba (spinosad) is used as a topical product and should be applied only to the patient's scalp or hair. In clinical trials, 86 percent of patients were lice-free after 14 days, compared with only 44 percent of the control group. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm240302.htm">www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm240302.htm</a>.

#### Smoke detectors save lives

In lowa, 185 deaths associated with fire were reported from 2006 to 2010. Of these deaths, 31 involved children under the age of 18, and in just over half of these deaths (18), it was determined that the children's homes had no or inoperable smoke alarms. These sudden and tragic child deaths may have been prevented if a working smoke detector had been present in these homes to alert occupants of the presence of a fire.

A new campaign, called the "100 Years/100%" smoke detector campaign, has set a goal of the installation of at least two working smoke detectors in the homes of all lowa

school children in grades kindergarten through 6th-grade by the end of this year. For more information, see

www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/main/smoke\_detector\_project/PDFs/MediaPacket.pdf.

# **Meeting announcements and training opportunities** None.

Have a healthy and happy week! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology lowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736