

**EPI Update for Friday, June 17, 2011**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Flood-related health information - Mold
- FDA approves treatment for *Clostridium difficile* infection
- *E. coli* O104:H4 update
- North Dakota reporting first case of measles
- Foodborne illness website
- Ten greatest achievements in public health #3
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

**Flood-related health information - Mold**

Mold is naturally-occurring and can be found everywhere in the environment, both indoors and outdoors. Exposure to mold can cause a variety of health effects; the most common are allergic symptoms. Mold exposure can also make pre-existing health conditions such as asthma, emphysema and COPD worsen. For more flood-related health information, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx) or [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5508a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5508a1.htm).

**FDA approves treatment for *Clostridium difficile* infection**

Dificid (fidaxomicin) tablets have been approved for the treatment of *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhea (CDAD). To maintain the effectiveness of Dificid, and to reduce the development of drug-resistant bacteria, it should be used only to treat infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by *C. difficile*. For more information visit [www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm257024.htm](http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm257024.htm).

***E. coli* O104:H4 update**

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, bean and seed sprouts were implicated in the *Escherichia coli* O104:H4 German outbreak. As of June 14<sup>th</sup> Germany had reported 784 HUS (hemolytic-uremic syndrome) cases, including 23 fatalities and 2,470 cases (without HUS) with 13 fatalities. For more information, please visit [www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/emergencies/international-health-regulations/news/news/2011/06/ehec-outbreak-update-16](http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/emergencies/international-health-regulations/news/news/2011/06/ehec-outbreak-update-16).

**North Dakota reporting first case of measles**

North Dakota reported the first case of measles in the state since 1987 in an unvaccinated adult male in his 50s. Disease was most likely contracted on an airline flight. For more information, please visit [www.ndhan.gov/data/mrNews/Measles%20News%20Release%2006%202011.pdf](http://www.ndhan.gov/data/mrNews/Measles%20News%20Release%2006%202011.pdf).

**Foodborne illness website**

CADE has a new foodborne illness website featuring:

- Symptoms, risk factors, and prevention strategies to avoid foodborne illness

- Laboratory testing resources for health care providers
- Links to IDPH's environmental health food safety website, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals consumer safety website as well as CDC and USDA.

Please visit the website at [www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Foodborne.aspx](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Foodborne.aspx).

### **Ten greatest achievements in public health #3**

#### *Achievement #3 – tobacco control*

By 2009, 20.6% of adults and 19.5% of youths were current smokers, compared with 23.5% of adults and 34.8% of youths 10 years earlier. The average state tax increased from 41.96 cents per pack in 2000 to \$1.44 per pack in 2010. In 2009, the FDA gained the authority to regulate tobacco products. By 2010, FDA had banned flavored cigarettes, restricted youth access, and proposed larger, more effective graphic warning labels that are expected to lead to a significant increase in quit attempts.

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

None

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

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