

EPI Update for Friday, May 11, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Laboratory acquired *Neisseria meningitidis* fatality**
- **Protecting patients when using single-dose/single-use vials**
- ***Salmonella* Infantis infections associated with dry dog food**
- **New pertussis weekly update**
- **Welcome to new CADE staff**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Laboratory acquired *Neisseria meningitidis* fatality

A young researcher recently died from a highly virulent strain of meningococcal disease, possibly contracted in the laboratory where he was working with the organism to develop a vaccine.

This did not occur in Iowa, however, all laboratories should ensure their procedures for handling cultures of *Neisseria meningitidis* are appropriate; for example, isolates should always be worked with inside a biosafety cabinet. For more information on laboratory safety, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/other/su6101.pdf and www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/other/su6002.pdf.

Protecting patients when using single-dose/single-use vials

CDC's guidelines call for medications labeled as "single dose" or "single use" to be used for only one patient. There have been concerns raised about whether these guidelines contribute to drug shortages and increased medical costs; however, such shortages are a result of manufacturing, shipping, and other issues unrelated to the guidelines. For more information, visit www.fda.gov/DrugShortageReport.

Outbreaks involving single-dose/single-use vials used for multiple patients have harmed patients. Drug shortages/waste concerns should not lead to unsafe medical practices. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety and www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/CDCposition-SingleUseVial.html.

***Salmonella* Infantis infections associated with dry dog food**

CDC and nine states are investigating a multi-state outbreak involving *Salmonella* Infantis infections linked to dry dog food. No cases have been identified thus far in Iowa. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/salmonella/dog-food-05-12/index.html.

New pertussis weekly update

With increasing cases of pertussis (whooping cough) being reported around the state, an update (similar to the flu update) will be posted weekly. To see the report, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/default.aspx?group=3, and click on "Pertussis Update" at the bottom of the page.

Welcome to new CADE staff

CADE is pleased to welcome Nancy Wilde as the HAI Coordinator. Nancy worked in infection prevention for 10 years at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, and most recently was the lead for the HAI prevention project at Telligen.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities**Agricultural Medicine Course**

June 11 to 15 in Iowa City, Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health will host training on occupational illnesses and injuries on the farm. For more information contact Kay Mohling at 319-335-4219 or kay-mohling@uiowa.edu or go to cph.uiowa.edu/icash/education/2012-IA-Ag-Med-Brochure.pdf.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy week!

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