

EPI Update for Friday, January 25, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Influenza update
- Iowa's flu vaccine rankings
- New immunization handout available
- OSHA Clinicians webpage resource for healthcare professionals
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Influenza update

Influenza activity in Iowa has decreased, but remains high and widespread. The number of schools with 10 percent or greater absenteeism due to illness continues to increase. For the most recent flu activity report, visit:

www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports

Iowa's flu vaccine rankings

The Trust for America's Health (TFAH) reports that this season's flu vaccination rates are the same as those in 2011: of those 6 months of age and older, 36.5 percent were vaccinated by November 2012 compared to 36.5 percent by November 2011.

When comparing Iowa to other states for last year's flu season (2011-2012), vaccination rates were:

- All those 6 months and older – Iowa 5th
- Children 6 months to 18 years – Iowa 31st (needs improvement)
- Adults 18 years and older – Iowa 2nd
- Adults 65 years and older – Iowa 1st

For more information, visit: healthyamericans.org/report/102/

New immunization handout available

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) recently developed *Vaccinations for adults with diabetes* which advises adults with diabetes on recommended vaccines and the ages they should be received. This is one of four handouts on vaccinations for adults in risk groups, see:

- Vaccinations for adults: You're never too old to get immunized!
- Vaccinations for adults with HIV infection
- Vaccinations for adults with Hepatitis C infection
- (other risk groups will be addressed in the future)

To learn more about the *IAC Express* and to subscribe to their electronic mailing list, visit: www.immunize.org/express/

OSHA Clinicians webpage resource for healthcare professionals

OSHA has launched a new webpage directed at health care professionals who encounter work-related health and safety issues for their patients. It provides

information, resources and links to help clinicians navigate OSHA's website and provide care for workers. Topics include evaluating occupational exposures, requirements for recordkeeping and medical records, and setting up a safe outpatient office. For more information, visit: www.osha.gov/dts/oom/clinicians/index.html

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Save the date: The 37th Annual Iowa Infection Prevention and Control Seminar, May 7-8, 2013, Des Moines, Iowa.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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