

**EPI Update for Friday, November 15, 2013**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Please help! Epi Update reader survey**
- **More influenza vaccine administered than this time last year**
- **Polio outbreak response prompts coordinated vaccination campaign in Middle East**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Please help! Epi Update reader survey**

*We need your help!* We are conducting a brief survey about the Epi Update to assess the impact this newsletter has on YOU. Your feedback is critical for us to improve the content and ensure the newsletter meets your needs. We especially need to know about the information sent this summer during the cyclospora outbreak. (Results from these questions will also be used to better understand the effectiveness of e-newsletters for dissemination of public health information.) All answers will be strictly confidential. Only aggregated, summary data will be shared.

This survey will take less than 5 minutes. **Please** click on the link below to start the survey. Thank you!

To take the survey, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/P8MYHVY](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P8MYHVY).

**More influenza vaccine administered than this time last year**

According to Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) data, 406,057 doses of flu vaccine were administered between August 1<sup>st</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Although flu vaccine administration data show a slower uptake early in the season, Iowans have received approximately 51,000 more doses of flu vaccine than what they had received by this time last year.

The number of flu vaccine doses administered in Iowa is available in the weekly flu report; visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports).

**Polio outbreak response prompts coordinated vaccination campaign in Middle East**

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has announced that several Middle Eastern countries are coordinating the largest ever vaccination campaign in the region. The initiative is in response to the identification of polio cases in Syria and detection of the virus in sewage samples in nearby countries that had previously been polio-free.

WHO and UNICEF are aiding the efforts, and an estimated 20 million children are expected to be vaccinated against polio as part of the campaign. Emergency vaccination campaigns have already reached 650,000 children in Syria and the

surrounding region, including the area where the most recent polio outbreak was identified.

For more information, visit [www.polioeradication.org/tabid/488/iid/329/Default.aspx](http://www.polioeradication.org/tabid/488/iid/329/Default.aspx).

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

800-362-2736