

**EPI Update for Friday, August 15, 2014**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **First Chikungunya-positive mosquito confirmed in U.S.**
- **Update: Iowa epidemiologist assists Sierra Leone Ebola outbreak**
- **West Nile virus counts increase to four**
- **Standards for Ebola personal protective equipment (PPE)**
- **Iowa Acute Disease Monthly**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**First Chikungunya-positive mosquito confirmed in U.S.**

No mosquitos on U.S. soil have ever been identified as carrying the Chikungunya virus, until now. All previous cases of Chikungunya were from travelers bitten while overseas; however, Texas and Florida have recently confirmed several locally-acquired cases. As of August 12, the CDC reported 584 cases nationwide. The Chikungunya virus is not spread by direct person-to-person contact, but a mosquito that bites an infected person can spread the virus to someone else. The virus causes severe joint pain, fever, and possible headache, swelling and rash. No vaccine or treatment is available.

For more information about Chikungunya, visit [www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/geo/united-states.html](http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/geo/united-states.html) and [www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/pdfs/CHIKV\\_VectorControl.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/pdfs/CHIKV_VectorControl.pdf).

**Update: Iowa epidemiologist assists Sierra Leone Ebola outbreak**

Samir Koirala, an epidemiologist with IDPH, is currently working with CDC in Sierra Leone to help control and prevent the spread of the Ebola outbreak.

*"We are making some progress in our work. We are educating local workers about the risks of getting Ebola. Previously, people like contact tracers, burial team members, ambulance drivers, etc., were just entering their offices without washing their hands with chlorine water or cleaning their shoes after coming in from the field. They have now taken action by putting chlorinated water in front of each room to wash hands, restricting entry of unnecessary people into their office, and cleaning their office with disinfectant every day." said Koirala.*

For more information about Koirala's trip and Ebola, visit [www.facebook.com/IowaDepartmentOfPublicHealth/](https://www.facebook.com/IowaDepartmentOfPublicHealth/) and [www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/).

**West Nile virus counts increase to four**

As of August 14, Iowa has confirmed a total of four cases of West Nile virus in Clay, Monona, Sioux, and Woodbury counties. While cooler weather may bring a general decrease in overall mosquito activity, the next several weeks are considered peak West

Nile virus season. For more information, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=West Nile Virus](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=West+Nile+Virus).

### **Standards for Ebola personal protective equipment (PPE)**

Are you receiving questions about why the CDC recommends health care professionals in Africa wear a full body suit, while those in the U.S. have different guidelines for the safe management and care of Ebola?

For the full answer, visit [www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/patient-management-us-hospitals.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/patient-management-us-hospitals.html).

### **Iowa Acute Disease Monthly**

The latest issue of the Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update is available at [www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.aspx?file=C4FD6AB3-06D0-43DF-9380-51C1D061B988](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.aspx?file=C4FD6AB3-06D0-43DF-9380-51C1D061B988).

Archived issues can be found by scrolling down to the Reports section <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/>.

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

Save the date: The 15th Annual Iowa Public Health Practice Colloquium will be held 1 p.m. Tuesday, October 7 in Iowa City at the University of Iowa College of Public Health.

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

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