

EPI Update for Friday, October 24, 2014
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Norovirus activity in Iowa**
- **Ebola update**
- **Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Norovirus activity in Iowa

The typical cold-weather norovirus activity has begun in Iowa, with the first outbreak being reported last week, which involved patrons of a restaurant. Norovirus is the most common cause of diarrheal outbreaks in Iowa and these outbreaks typically occur during the winter months.

To reduce the risk of spreading the virus, remind those with symptoms of norovirus to wash their hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom, and refrain from preparing food for anyone else.

Those in high-risk occupations (food handlers, healthcare providers, childcare providers) should not work while ill. Note: people can remain infectious after recovering from this illness, so individuals in these occupations should not return to work until 48 hours after symptoms have ended.

While individual cases of norovirus are not reportable in Iowa, all outbreaks must be reported. If you suspect an outbreak may be occurring, please collect stool samples from patients and contact public health immediately. The State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) performs testing for norovirus using a real-time RT-PCR assay. The preferred specimen for testing is whole stool, but stool in Enteric Transport Medium (ETM) is also acceptable. Test Request Forms, specimen collection, and shipping instructions are located on SHL's web site at www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/clinicaltestmenu.xml.

Ebola Update

There are no cases of Ebola in Iowa. No Iowans are in isolation or quarantine. No persons in Iowa are being tested for Ebola.

New York City Reports Positive Test for Ebola in Volunteer International Aid Worker. For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/s1023-ebola-nyc.html

Our Ebola web page is up and running at [www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Ebola Outbreak](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Ebola%20Outbreak).

New this week from IDPH:

1. [Ebola Frequently Asked Questions for Business](#)
2. [No Ebola Cases in Iowa; Preparation Continues \(10/22/2014\)](#) press release

New this week from CDC:

1. Case Counts - October 22, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html

2. [CDC Announces Active Post-Arrival Monitoring for Travelers from Impacted Countries](http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p1022-post-arrival-monitoring.html) - October 22, 2014 www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p1022-post-arrival-monitoring.html
3. Factsheet: Healthcare Workers - Could it be Ebola? - October 21, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/could-it-be-ebola.pdf
4. [Nigeria is now free of Ebola virus transmission](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/ebola/20-october-2014/en/) - October 20, 2014 www.who.int/mediacentre/news/ebola/20-october-2014/en/
5. Factsheet: Tightened Guidance for U.S. Healthcare Workers on Personal Protective Equipment for Ebola - October 20, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/chlorine-poisoning.pdf
6. Factsheet: Chlorine Poisoning - October 20, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/chlorine-poisoning.pdf
7. Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment To Be Used by Healthcare Workers During Management of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease in U.S. Hospitals, Including Procedures for Putting On (Donning) and Removing (Doffing) - October 20, 2014 www.who.int/mediacentre/news/ebola/20-october-2014/en/
8. When Caring for Suspect or Confirmed Patients with Ebola - October 19, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/caring-for-ebola-suspects.html
9. WHO declares the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in Senegal over – October 17, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/chlorine-poisoning.pdf 20,2014
10. Factsheet: Drinking Chlorine Can Make You Sick or Kill You - October 20, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/drinking-chlorine-can-make-you-sick-or-kill-you.pdf
11. When Caring for Suspect or Confirmed Patients with Ebola - October 19, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/caring-for-ebola-suspects.html
12. WHO declares the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in Senegal over - October 17, 2014 http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/136645/1/roadmapupdate17Oct14_eng.pdf?ua=1
13. Frequently Asked Questions about Dallas and Ohio Flights - October 17, 2014 www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/faq1017-ebola-investigation-frequently-asked-questions.html
14. Interim Guidance for Healthcare Workers Providing Care in West African Countries Affected by the Ebola Outbreak: Limiting Heat Burden While Wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – October 17, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/limiting-heat-burden.html
15. Review of Human-to-Human Transmission of Ebola Virus - October 17, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/transmission/human-transmission.html
16. Factsheet: Prevent Heat-Related Illness - October 17, 2014 www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/prevent-heat-related-illness.pdf

Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update

The new issue of the Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update is available by visiting www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/ and scrolling down to 'Reports.' This month's issue can also be accessed directly at www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=D909BA46-B283-4243-BC13-9FAE92BFE346.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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