

**EPI Update for Friday, June 12, 2015**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- 1914 Typhoid Fever outbreak in Adel, Iowa
- Updated sexually transmitted disease treatment guidelines
- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)
- Ebola update
- Anthrax transfer update
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

**1914 Typhoid Fever outbreak in Adel, Iowa**

The investigation of a 1914 Typhoid Fever (TF) outbreak in Adel, Iowa sheds light on the public health food and waterborne disease standards of the early 20th century. On November 5, 1914, a social held by the Ladies Aid Society resulted in a large number of the attendees becoming ill with TF. Servers, kitchen staff, and the water used all tested negative for typhoid bacteria. An investigation determined the chicken sandwiches served at the event were prepared using cream and broth from the chicken, with very little cooking. The cream was from previous day's milking, which had been stored in the "cool" basement of the farm home, then brought to town and kept cool until two hours before it was used.

The farm that was the source of the milk was adjacent to a mill slough in Adel, where several hundred fishermen would come on a yearly basis to camp and fish. Investigators believe mill slough and the limited area for human waste near the farm made it possible for infection to accumulate in the barnyard area and soil, thus causing possible spread to nearby cows and their milk. In turn, investigators determined this to be a very viable source of the TF outbreak. For more on this outbreak, visit the IPHA's summer newsletter at [www.iowapha.org/Resources/Documents/PHM-Summer%202015.pdf](http://www.iowapha.org/Resources/Documents/PHM-Summer%202015.pdf).

**Updated sexually transmitted disease treatment guidelines**

CDC recently updated its guidelines for the treatment of persons who have or are at risk for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The updated guidelines discuss:

1. Alternative treatment regimens for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*;
2. The use of nucleic acid amplification tests for the diagnosis of trichomoniasis;
3. Alternative treatment options for genital warts;
4. The role of *Mycoplasma genitalium* in urethritis/cervicitis and treatment-related implications;
5. Updated HPV vaccine recommendations and counseling messages;
6. The management of persons who are transgender;
7. Annual testing for hepatitis C in persons with HIV infection;
8. Updated recommendations for diagnostic evaluation of urethritis; and
9. Re-testing to detect repeat infection. Physicians and other health care providers can use these guidelines to assist in the prevention and treatment of STDs.

For more information, visit

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6403a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr6403a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6403a1.htm?s_cid=rr6403a1_e).

### **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)**

On May 20, the Republic of Korea reported its first laboratory confirmed case of Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). By June 5, 36 cases had been confirmed by the World Health Organization, all linked to health care facilities with confirmed MERS cases.

Due to this outbreak in Korea, health care providers in Iowa should be alert for patients who develop severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., requiring hospitalization) and visited a health care facility in the Republic of Korea within 14 days before illness onset. For more information, visit [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/mers-republic-of-korea](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/mers-republic-of-korea).

### **Ebola update**

CDC has not changed the recommendations concerning the screening of patients, nor surveillance of travelers coming from Liberia. For more information on the current Ebola situation in Africa, visit [www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/).

### **Anthrax transfer update**

CDC is investigating the unintentional transfer of anthrax from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to labs in multiple states and overseas. As of June 8, 66 laboratories in 19 states and Washington D.C., as well as three foreign countries are now known to have received the live anthrax samples. An investigation is ongoing. *No Iowa laboratories have been identified as having received these anthrax samples.*

CDC is investigating with DOD and other federal and state partners to identify all the labs that received these samples by determining if these labs also received other live samples, epidemiologic consultation, worker safety review, laboratory analysis, and handling of laboratory waste. All samples involved in the investigation are being securely transferred to CDC or Laboratory Response Network laboratories for further testing. The risk to the general public is very low. For more information on anthrax, visit [www.cdc.gov/anthrax/](http://www.cdc.gov/anthrax/).

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

None

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

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

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