

EPI Update for Friday, March 25, 2016
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Travel-associated Zika virus disease cases among U.S. residents
- Influenza widespread across most of the U.S.
- Raw milk consumption
- Iowa acute disease monthly update
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Travel-associated Zika virus disease cases among U.S. residents

In the U.S., 116 residents in 33 states and the District of Columbia tested positive for recent Zika virus infection between January 1, 2015 and February 26, 2016. Cases included one congenital infection, and 115 persons who reported recent travel to areas with active Zika virus transmission (n=110) or sexual contact with such a traveler (n=5). All 115 patients had clinical illness. Symptoms reported by 96 percent of cases included rash (98 percent), fever (82 percent), joint pain (66 percent), and conjunctivitis. Median age was 38 years (range 3-81 years) and the country most frequently reported for travel was Haiti (n=27). For more information, visit

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6511e1er.htm.

For more information on Zika, visit www.cdc.gov/zika/ or idph.iowa.gov/ehi/zika

Influenza widespread across most of the U.S.

Influenza in Iowa and across most of the U.S. is widespread. While influenza activity most often peaks between December and February, it is peaking late this year. Four influenza viruses have been confirmed by the State Hygienic Laboratory as currently circulating in Iowa: influenza A (H3), influenza A (H1N1), influenza B (Victoria), and influenza B (Yamagata). To view the IDPH influenza report, visit

www.idph.iowa.gov/influenza/reports.

Raw milk consumption

Recently, a 2014 outbreak of listeriosis was linked to the consumption of raw milk produced by an organic farm in Pennsylvania; two cases resulted in hospitalizations (one each in California and Florida) and one of the cases died. Although the two illnesses occurred in 2014, the source of these illnesses wasn't confirmed until January 2016, when whole genome sequencing of *Listeria* bacteria from the consumed milk produced by the organic farm determined that the farm's bacteria was closely related genetically to *Listeria* bacteria from the two hospitalized cases.

It was also recently reported that lawmakers in another state - who passed a bill to legalize the consumption of raw milk - fell ill after drinking raw unpasteurized milk to celebrate their victory.

The sale of raw milk in Iowa is illegal and the Iowa Department of Public Health discourages the consumption of raw milk and raw milk products (including soft cheese, ice cream, and yogurt) because of the significant health risks, including death, it poses.

For more outbreak information, visit www.cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/raw-milk-03-16/ .

Iowa acute disease monthly update

The March issue is available on our new website at

idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/79/Reports/Misc/Monthly%20Report/IADMU%20March%202016.pdf.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy (and hopefully less snowy) week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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