EPI Update for Friday, April 29, 2016
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Six measles in Tennessee**
- **Guidance for occupational exposure to Zika virus**
- **Zika virus testing**
- **The impact of folic acid fortification in the United States infographic**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Six measles in Tennessee

Two cases of unrelated measles in Tennessee were reported on April 22; by April 25, the number of cases had increased to six, all in Shelby County. Tennessee released the following statement: "Since the first confirmed cases in Shelby County, expert public health staff members have worked long and hard to aggressively trace contacts, providing vaccine to the unvaccinated and doing other interventions to protect us and limit spread. Even so, this outbreak will likely get worse before it gets better and we appreciate the cooperation of the hundreds impacted so far." More cases are expected, as the index case has not been identified.

Measles is a virus that causes high fever, rash and the 3 Cs - cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis. The rash typically moves from the face to the rest of body. Complications include diarrhea, ear infection, pneumonia, brain swelling, and death. Measles is highly contagious, and can linger in the air for up to two hours. An infected person is able to spread measles from four days before the rash starts through four days after the rash appears. The fatality rate in developed countries is about one percent; however, it can be as high as 30 percent in some communities.

The best protection against measles is the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, which is safe and effective, and provides lifelong protection after two doses. For more information, visit www.tn.gov/health/topic/measles.

Guidance for occupational exposure to Zika virus

Interim guidance has been issued for protecting workers from occupational exposure to the Zika virus; employees at higher risk include outside workers in areas where Zika is found, health care employees, and laboratory workers. The guidance addresses:

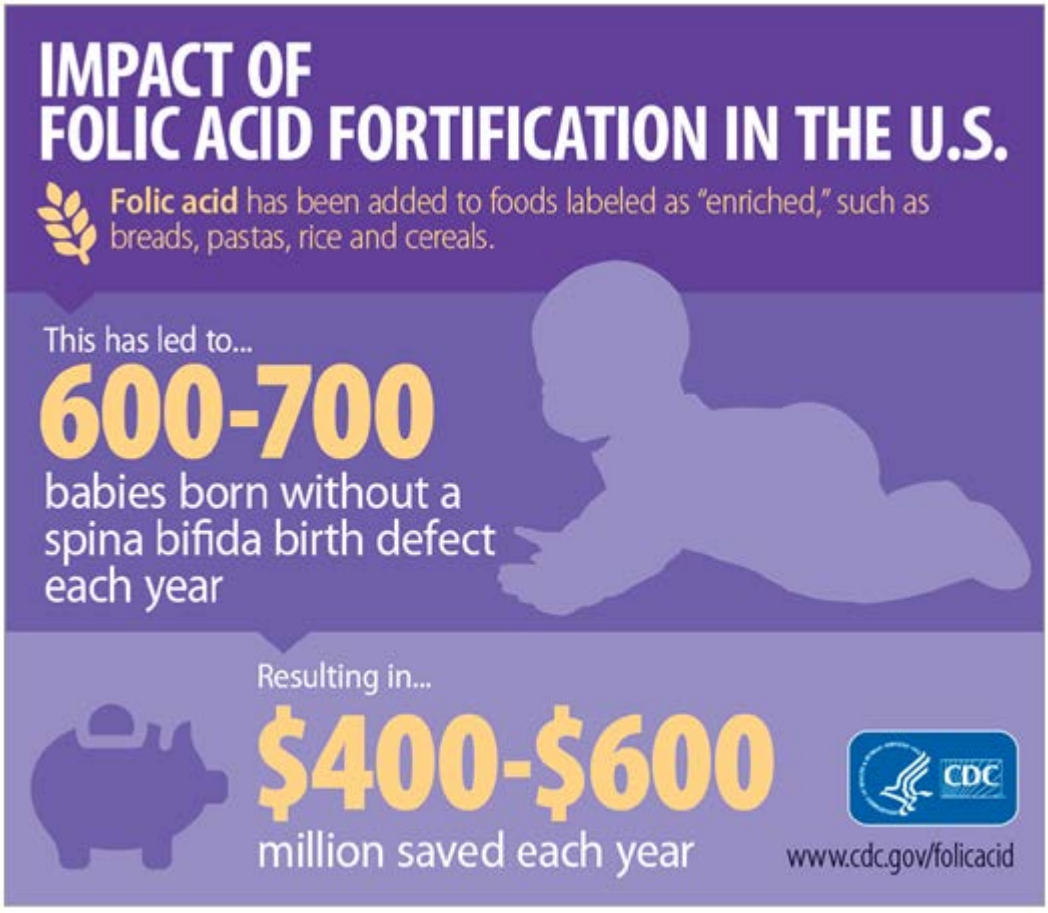
- Proper use of insect repellants
- Clothing to reduce exposure to mosquitos
- Elimination of mosquito breeding areas (e.g., standing water)
- Possible reassignment of vulnerable workers, such as pregnant women, to less risky jobs
- When to seek medical attention for possible Zika infection
- Steps to prevent sexual transmission
- Infection control and biosafety practices for healthcare and laboratory workers

For more information, visit www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3855.pdf or idph.iowa.gov/ehi/zika (Information for Employers section).

Zika virus testing
Healthcare providers suspecting Zika virus infection should contact IDPH's Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-362-2736. CADE staff will consult with the provider to determine whether the case meets current testing criteria. If testing is warranted, CADE will work with the provider to determine which specimen to collect and make arrangements to get the specimen to the State Hygienic Laboratory.

For more information about Zika, visit www.idph.iowa.gov/ehi/zika or www.cdc.gov/zika/disease-qa.html.

The impact of folic acid fortification in the United States infographic
This week's infographic is about the impact of folic acid fortification in the United States. To access the infographic, visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/folicacid/features/keyfinding-folicacid-impact.html.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Meeting announcements and training opportunities
2016 Iowa Immunization Coalition Conference, Adler Education Center, Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, June 16, 2016. To register, visit www.immunizeiowa.org/.

Have a healthy and happy (and less rainy) week!
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736