

## **EPI Update for Friday, January 20, 2017 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Geographic spread of influenza increasing**
- **Lead poisoning outbreak: medical monitoring for independent tradesmen**
- **CRE strain in Nevada resistant to 26 antibiotics**
- **In the news: taking picky eating to the extreme**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

### **Geographic spread of influenza increasing**

The geographic spread of influenza in Iowa has expanded from local to regional (activity has increased in at least two regions) and outbreaks are occurring in three of six regions in Iowa. There have been 12 investigations of long-term care outbreaks since the beginning of the season, with six occurring during the second week of January. Those who have not been vaccinated yet should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

### **Lead poisoning outbreak: medical monitoring for independent tradesmen**

A cluster of workers (including one Iowan) were exposed to high levels of lead at a Wisconsin shipyard in 2016, with 171 of 233 workers tested having significantly elevated levels of lead in their blood. OSHA proposed nearly \$1.4 million in penalties for the shipyard operator, citing egregious health violations for overexposing workers to lead and willful violations for failing to conduct monitoring to assess employee exposure to lead, failing to implement a lead compliance program or a respiratory protection program for lead, and for failing to provide training on lead and asbestos hazards. To view the full article, visit [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6601a8.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6601a8.htm).

Many Iowa tradesmen do work as independent contractors in high-risk lead exposure industries. Often, these workers rely on their primary medical providers to provide services many large employers would schedule through occupational health clinics. It is important to ask patients about their work and possible risks for environmental exposures, and offer to provide testing and other services as appropriate.

### **CRE strain in Nevada resistant to 26 antibiotics**

*Klebsiella pneumoniae* was isolated from a wound specimen from a hospitalized elderly patient who ultimately developed septic shock and died. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing indicated this organism was resistant to ALL available antibiotics (making it also a Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae or CRE). The patient was isolated using contact precautions and no other patients with CRE were identified in the hospital unit. The patient had a history of multiple hospitalizations in India, with the most recent being two months prior to the isolation of this resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. To view the full article, visit [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6601a7.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6601a7.htm).

This case highlights the importance of reporting of and testing for CRE in Iowa. If CRE is suspected, 1) promptly initiate proper infection prevention practices, 2) report quickly to IDPH or the local health department, and 3) send the bacterial isolates to SHL for confirmation.

### **In the news: taking picky eating to the extreme**

A recent New York Times article describes a newly defined eating disorder called avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder that one study suggests may affect up to 3 percent of children. Individuals with severe forms of the disorder are only able to eat a few select foods, leading to malnutrition, weight loss, and other health issues. With behavioral therapy, patients with this disorder have shown some improvement, but it is an often lifelong problem. To view the article, visit [www.nytimes.com/2017/01/17/well/eat/picky-eating-arfid.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/17/well/eat/picky-eating-arfid.html?_r=0).

**Infographic: Fight the Flu**

available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/take3-fight-flu-infographic.pdf>

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

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