

## **EPI Update for Friday, January 27, 2017**

### **Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**

### **Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

#### **Items for this week's EPI Update include:**

- Influenza activity at widespread levels in Iowa
- Seoul virus in rats
- Norovirus outbreaks close schools around the U.S.
- In the news: people tend to be happier when they get up and move!
- Infographic: Preventing Norovirus Outbreaks
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

#### **Influenza activity at widespread levels in Iowa**

The geographic spread of influenza in Iowa has expanded from regional to widespread (activity has increased in at least half of the regions in the state) and outbreaks are occurring in three of six regions in Iowa. All influenza indicators continue to increase. There have been 14 identified long-term care outbreaks since the beginning of the season.

Those who have not been vaccinated yet should be vaccinated as soon as possible. For more information on influenza, visit [idph.iowa.gov/influenza](http://idph.iowa.gov/influenza).

#### **Seoul virus in rats**

An outbreak of Seoul virus has occurred, with eight ill people in Illinois and Wisconsin. Investigation determined that in December 2016, two individuals became ill (they operated a home-based rat-breeding facility in Wisconsin). These ill individuals had purchased rats from two ratteries in Wisconsin and Illinois, where six additional people tested positive for Seoul virus. All individuals have recovered.

There is no indication that Iowa has received any infected animals. Rats do not show symptoms when infected with Seoul virus and CDC is not recommending testing for rodents not linked with the outbreak.

Seoul virus is a hantavirus, but differs from its well-known cousin (Sin Nombre virus) in that it is generally milder and has a renal pathology vs. pulmonary pathology. Rarely, patients with Seoul virus will develop hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS). The case fatality rate is 1 to 2 percent.

For more information on Seoul virus, visit [www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/outbreaks/seoul-virus/faqs-seoul-virus.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/outbreaks/seoul-virus/faqs-seoul-virus.html).

#### **Norovirus outbreaks close schools around the U.S.**

Schools around the US have been reporting closures due to large norovirus outbreaks. Although no school closures due to illness have occurred in Iowa recently, there have been several norovirus outbreaks around the state this winter in schools, as well as long-term care facilities and restaurants.

Norovirus prevention tips include:

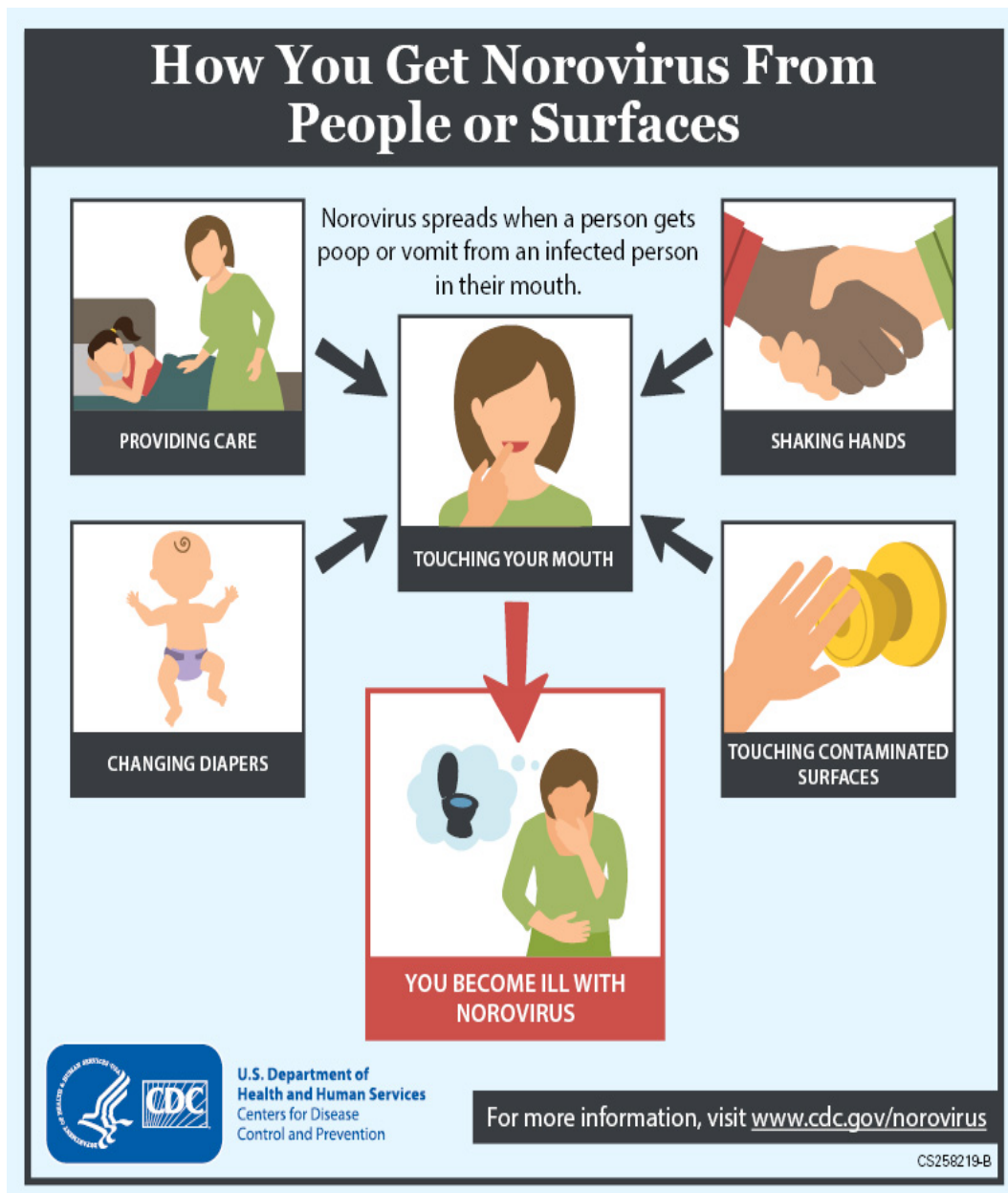
- Wash hands with warm, soapy water for 20 seconds after using the bathroom or changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food.
- Immediately clean and disinfect surfaces that have become contaminated with feces or vomit.
- Do not prepare food for others until diarrhea-free for 48 hours.
- Stay home from child care, school, or work while ill.

For more information on norovirus, visit [idph.iowa.gov/cade/disease-information/norovirus](http://idph.iowa.gov/cade/disease-information/norovirus).

#### **In the news: People tend to be happier when they get up and move!**

[www.nytimes.com/2017/01/25/well/move/get-up-and-move-it-may-make-you-happier.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/25/well/move/get-up-and-move-it-may-make-you-happier.html)

**Infographic:  
How You Get Norovirus From People or Surfaces**



Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/multimedia.html>

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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