

EPI Update for Friday, February 24, 2017 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Influenza vaccination rates on the rise**
- **Three-fold increase in foodborne illness reports since hotline established**
- **In the news: Helping kids eat healthy foods**
- **Infographic: The Benefits of Flu Vaccination**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Influenza vaccination rates on the rise

Iowa's influenza vaccination rates are increasing annually. Just over one million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine have been administered and reported through IRIS (Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System) this influenza season. At this time last influenza season, there were a total of approximately 850,000 vaccine doses administered and reported to IRIS. Over the past five influenza seasons there has been an average 16 percent increase in vaccination doses administered and reported.

For more information on the current influenza season and influenza vaccinations, visit www.idph.iowa.gov/influenza and www.idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization/vaccine.

Three-fold increase in foodborne illness reports since hotline established

Since the launch of Iowa's new foodborne illness reporting hotline (1-844-IowaSic) last October, approximately 160 reports have been submitted from ill Iowans. During the same time period the year prior, 50 reports were received. Reports are investigated in partnership with local public health agencies and the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (the agency with regulatory authority over restaurants, food manufacturing, and retail establishments). To aid in public health investigation and control, healthcare providers are asked to consider collecting stool samples when foodborne illness is suspected. In addition, please encourage patients to report to 1-844-IowaSic.

For more information, visit <https://ia.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/>.

In the news: Only one-third of parents think they are doing a good job helping kids eat healthy foods.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/02/170220084213.htm>

Infographic: The Benefits of Flu Vaccination

For more, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/flu-vaccine-protected-infographic.htm>.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health

The 2016 Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health will be held April 11 and 12 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines - Airport. For more information, visit <https://www.iowapha.org/IGCPH>.

Iowa Immunization Summit

The 2017 Iowa Immunization Summit will be held June 14 and 15 at the Veterans Memorial Convention Center in Des Moines. More information coming soon.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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