

EPI Update for Friday, September 15, 2017
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

San Diego Public Health's efforts to contain hepatitis A outbreak
Health behaviors and academic achievement among high school students
Animal and pet feces contact a risk factor for *Campylobacter*
In the news: Plants "hijacked" to make polio vaccine
Infographic: Stop. Rethink your drink. Go on green.
Meeting announcements and training opportunities

San Diego Public Health's efforts to contain hepatitis A outbreak

September 1, 2017, the San Diego County Public Health Officer declared a local public health emergency due to the ongoing hepatitis A virus (HAV) outbreak that began in November of last year. As of September 11, 2017, 421 confirmed or probable HAV cases have been reported in San Diego County, hitting the homeless population particularly hard. Public health efforts have included vaccination campaigns, distribution of flyers, and possible temporary housing for the city's homeless.

Perhaps the most out-of-the box thinking to contain this outbreak was a plan to literally clean up the streets. The city hired a private contractor to spray the streets with bleach solution, began installing outdoor hand washing stations, and earmarked 14 bathrooms to stay open 24 hours per day to aid the sizable homeless population.

Hepatitis A is highly contagious. It is usually transmitted by the fecal-oral route, either through person-to-person contact or consumption of contaminated food or water. The disease varies in severity from having no symptoms to severely disabling disease or death. The best way to prevent hepatitis A is by getting vaccinated.

For more information on the hepatitis A outbreak in San Diego, visit

www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/Hepatitis_A.html.

Health behaviors and academic achievement among high school students

Researchers used data from the 2015 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (a survey measuring health-related behaviors among U.S. high school students) to assess relationships between academic achievement and 30 health-related behaviors. They found that students who earned mostly As/Bs/Cs had significantly higher prevalence of most protective health-related behaviors and significantly lower prevalence of most health-related risk behaviors than did students with mostly Ds/Fs. These findings highlight the link between health-related behaviors and education outcomes, suggesting that education and public health professionals might benefit from collaborating to achieve both improved education and health outcomes for youths.

To view the full article, visit

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6635a1.htm?s_cid=mm6635a1_e.

Animal and pet feces contact a risk factor for *Campylobacter*

A multistate outbreak of human *Campylobacter* infections linked to puppies sold through a national pet store chain is being investigated. *Campylobacter* can spread through contact with animals and their feces, including dogs and cats. It usually does not spread from person to person. Symptoms include diarrhea, abdominal pain and fever. A variety of stool testing options exist to detect *Campylobacter*. Handwashing following contact with animals or pet feces can help prevent spread.

For more information on *Campylobacter*, visit

idph.iowa.gov/CADE/disease-information/campylobacter.

In the news: Plants “hijacked” to make polio vaccine

www.bbc.com/news/health-40925343

Infographic: Stop. Rethink your drink. Go on green.

www.cityofboston.gov/news/uploads/43367_33_7_52.pdf

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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