EPI Update for Friday, August 4, 2017
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- ***H. influenzae* Type B, still a risk for young children**
- **Pesticide exposure reminders**
- **Don't collect capillary specimens for adult blood lead testing**
- **In the news: Global blindness set to 'triple by 2050'**
- **Infographic: Tips to limit various types of pesticide exposures**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

***H. influenzae* Type B, still a risk for young childre**n

A case of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type B (HiB) was investigated this week with preventive measures taken. Although HiB now makes up a small percentage of all *H. influenzae* infections, the organism was a significant cause of meningitis in very young children before a vaccine became available in the late 1980s. HiB cases should be immediately reported. They are followed-up by public health to ensure the patient has been appropriately treated (with antibiotics to effectively clear carriage) and that all household contacts of the patient are given antimicrobial prophylaxis if there is a non-vaccinated or under-vaccinated child younger than four years of age in the home (because of the high risk of meningitis in young children).

When laboratories identify *H. influenzae* from a normally sterile site, the specimen should be immediately forwarded to SHL for typing. This allows quick and necessary public health actions to be taken. For more information about *H. influenzae*, visit: www.cdc.gov/hi-disease/index.html

Pesticide exposure reminders

Pesticides are being applied to many crops right now. Pesticide spray drift is the movement of pesticide dust or droplets through the air at the time of application or soon after to any site other than the area intended.

Last week, a group of corn detasselers were exposed to pesticides being applied by a crop duster to a neighboring field that had drifted to the field where they were working. Fortunately, everyone was safely decontaminated at the site after various agencies responded. These agencies provided care and are investigating why this occurred.

What should you do following a pesticide exposure incident?

- Call the Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222 for advice regarding medical attention or decontamination.
- Refer to the EPA publication *Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings* (npic.orst.edu/rmpp.htm) for information on poisoning symptoms and treatment information for specific pesticides.
- By law, pesticide-related illness is a reportable condition in Iowa. If you are a health care provider treating a pesticide-related incident, contact the IDPH Bureau of Environmental Health Services (EHS) at 800-972-2026 Monday-Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm or fax this form to 515-281-4529: idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Files/ADPEREH/environ_occup_report_form.pdf Reporting to the Poison Control Center meets your reporting requirement.
- Incidents that are suspected of involving pesticide drift with or without human exposure should be reported to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Pesticide Bureau at 515-281-8591. IDALS has fact sheet available at: www.iowaagriculture.gov/Pesticide/pdf/2017/PesticideDriftFAQFINALJune2017.pdf

Don't collect capillary specimens for adult blood lead testing

Adults who are exposed to lead in the workplace should always be tested using a venous specimen due to the possibility of capillary blood contamination from skin surface lead. A capillary test on some who work around lead may result in a very high test report, such as the >65 mcg/dL result received last week. This false positive required venous retesting of the patient to rule out the critically high lead value, which could have required chelation and/or removal of the patient from his job.

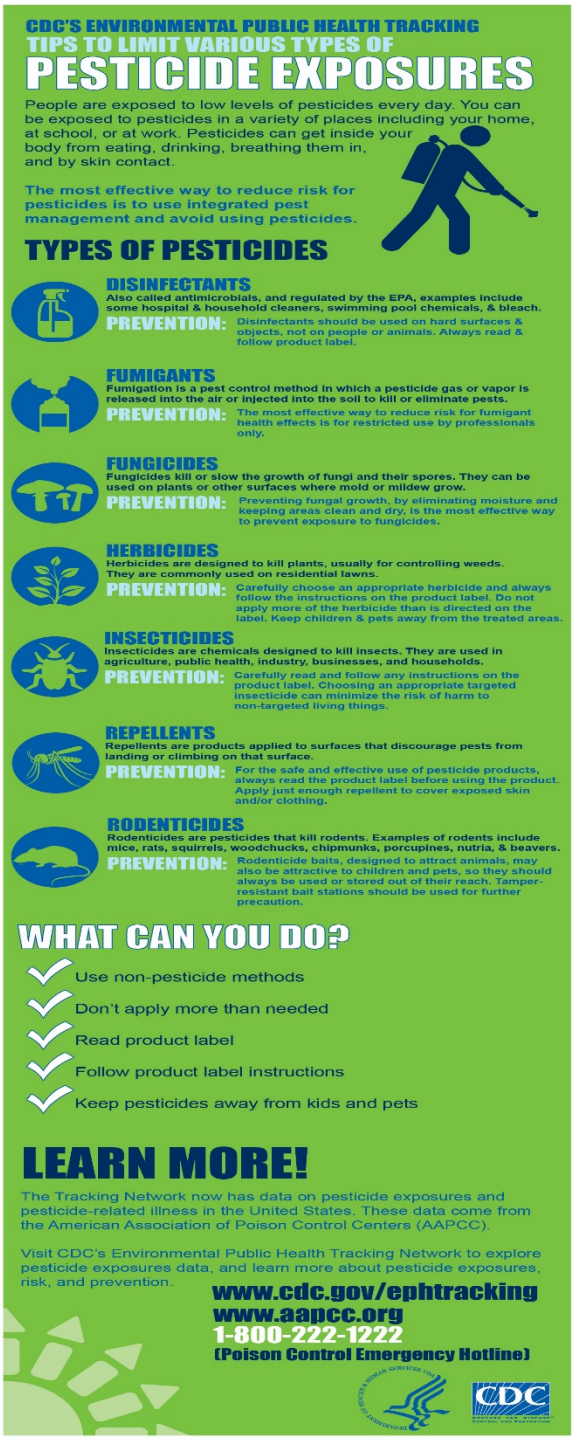
Beginning in May 2017, the FDA issued a "Warning Against Using Magellan Diagnostics LeadCare Testing Systems with Blood Obtained from a Vein." Users were notified to discontinue using Magellan's LeadCare System Testing Systems with venous blood samples. At this time, all LeadCare systems can still be used with capillary blood samples when obtained from appropriate patients. The FDA notice is available at www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/ucm558733.htm

If you previously used a Magellan instrument like the LeadCare II to test venous specimens on children or adults, please make arrangements to send your venous blood lead specimens to a reference laboratory rather than choosing to collect a capillary specimen. This may save your patient from a return trip to your office for a repeat blood test. IDPH has been in touch with Iowa-based labs regarding this issue. If you have any questions, please contact us at 800-972-2026.

In the news: *Global blindness set to 'triple by 2050'*

www.bbc.com/news/health-40806253

Infographic: ***Tips to limit various types of pesticide exposures***



To view the image in full size, visit: ephtracking.cdc.gov/showPesticidesCommunicationTools.action

Meeting announcements and training opportunities
IDPH's TB Control Program and the Mayo Clinic Center for Tuberculosis, is offering TB Clinical Intensive on October 16, 2017 to familiarize primary care clinicians and other health care workers with TB infection, disease and clinical care (provided free of charge and with CMEs and CEUs). Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Thompson Auditorium. To register, visit: ce.mayo.edu/public-health/content/tuberculosis-clinical-intensive-%E2%80%93-des-moines-ia-2017T

Have a healthy and happy week!
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