

**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 children**

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](http://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 detassellers 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 someone who works 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](http://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'**

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

**CDC'S ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING  
TIPS TO LIMIT VARIOUS TYPES OF  
PESTICIDE EXPOSURES**

People are exposed to low levels of pesticides every day. You can be exposed to pesticides in a variety of places including your home, at school, or at work. Pesticides can get inside your body from eating, drinking, breathing them in, and by skin contact.

The most effective way to reduce risk for pesticides is to use integrated pest management and avoid using pesticides.

**TYPES OF PESTICIDES**

**DISINFECTANTS**  
Also called antimicrobials, and regulated by the EPA, examples include some hospital & household cleaners, swimming pool chemicals, & bleach.  
**PREVENTION:** Disinfectants should be used on hard surfaces & objects, not on people or animals. Always read & follow product label.

**FUMIGANTS**  
Fumigation is a pest control method in which a pesticide gas or vapor is released into the air or injected into the soil to kill or eliminate pests.  
**PREVENTION:** The most effective way to reduce risk for fumigant health effects is for restricted use by professionals only.

**FUNGICIDES**  
Fungicides kill or slow the growth of fungi and their spores. They can be used on plants or other surfaces where mold or mildew grow.  
**PREVENTION:** Preventing fungal growth, by eliminating moisture and keeping areas clean and dry, is the most effective way to prevent exposure to fungicides.

**HERBICIDES**  
Herbicides are designed to kill plants, usually for controlling weeds. They are commonly used on residential lawns.  
**PREVENTION:** Carefully choose an appropriate herbicide and always follow the instructions on the product label. Do not apply more of the herbicide than is directed on the label. Keep children & pets away from the treated areas.

**INSECTICIDES**  
Insecticides are chemicals designed to kill insects. They are used in agriculture, public health, industry, businesses, and households.  
**PREVENTION:** Carefully read and follow any instructions on the product label. Choosing an appropriate targeted insecticide can minimize the risk of harm to non-targeted living things.

**REPELLENTS**  
Repellents are products applied to surfaces that discourage pests from landing or climbing on that surface.  
**PREVENTION:** For the safe and effective use of pesticide products, always read the product label before using the product. Apply just enough repellent to cover exposed skin and/or clothing.

**RODENTICIDES**  
Rodenticides are pesticides that kill rodents. Examples of rodents include mice, rats, squirrels, woodchucks, chipmunks, porcupines, nutria, & beavers.  
**PREVENTION:** Rodenticide baits, designed to attract animals, may also be attractive to children and pets, so they should always be used or stored out of their reach. Tamper-resistant bait stations should be used for further precaution.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- ✓ Use non-pesticide methods
- ✓ Don't apply more than needed
- ✓ Read product label
- ✓ Follow product label instructions
- ✓ Keep pesticides away from kids and pets

**LEARN MORE!**

The Tracking Network now has data on pesticide exposures and pesticide-related illness in the United States. These data come from the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC).

Visit CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to explore pesticide exposures data, and learn more about pesticide exposures, risk, and prevention.

**[www.cdc.gov/ephtracking](http://www.cdc.gov/ephtracking)**  
**[www.aapcc.org](http://www.aapcc.org)**  
**1-800-222-1222**  
**(Poison Control Emergency Hotline)**

To view the image in full size, visit: [ephtracking.cdc.gov/showPesticidesCommunicationTools.action](http://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-2017](http://ce.mayo.edu/public-health/content/tuberculosis-clinical-intensive-%E2%80%93-des-moines-ia-2017)

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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