

**EPI Update for Friday, December 1, 2017**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Meningococcal disease declines more than 70 percent**
- **New Jersey: Exotic tick identified for first time in U.S.**
- ***Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2017***
- **Have You Ever Heard of the Goiter Belt? Iowa is in it.**
- **In the news: Just two measles cases cost taxpayers \$68,192 in Colorado**
- **In the news: Scarlet fever cases hit 50-year high in England**
- **Infographic: Your map to a food-safe holiday**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Meningococcal disease declines more than 70 percent**

The incidence of meningococcal disease has been declining in the U.S. since the late 1990s. During 2012–2015, the incidence of meningococcal disease in the U.S. was 0.1–0.2 cases per 100,000 population, with 350–550 cases reported annually. The overall national incidence declined 70.8 percent from 2006 to 2015. In 2016, Iowa had 3 cases of meningococcal disease. By comparison, there were 20 cases in 2006.

According to CDC, this reduction reflects the impact of ACIP's 2005 recommendation to vaccinate individuals aged 11 to 18 years, and the 2010 recommendation for a booster dose at 16 years old or older.

In Iowa, the adolescent (13-15 year-old) county immunization rate for the 3-1-2-1-2 (3 Hep B, 1 Meningococcal, 2 MMR, 1 Td or Tdap, 2 Varicella) series ranges from 30 to 84 percent, with an average state immunization rate of 58 percent.

For more information on meningococcal vaccination, visit [www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/vaccine-info.html](http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/vaccine-info.html).

For the 2016 *Immunizations in Iowa* annual report, visit [idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/39/2016%20Immunization%20Program%20Annual%20Report%20Final%206-22-17%20%281%29%20%281%29.pdf](http://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/39/2016%20Immunization%20Program%20Annual%20Report%20Final%206-22-17%20%281%29%20%281%29.pdf).

**New Jersey: Exotic tick identified for first time in U.S.**

An exotic East Asian tick was found on a farm in New Jersey recently, as confirmed by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. The tick was not known to be present in the U.S., although it has been identified on animals and materials presented for entry at U.S. ports.

The tick is a known livestock pest, especially in New Zealand, and can transmit a disease called Theileriosis to cattle. This disease presents no human health or food safety risks. The potential impact on tickborne illness to New Jersey residents is not yet known. In other parts of the world, this tick has been associated with several tickborne diseases, some of which are found in the U.S., such as spotted fever rickettsioses.

New Jersey state and federal animal health and wildlife officials are working to address these findings. The animals and property where the tick was found have been treated to eliminate the tick.

Further response efforts will include surveillance of the property and wildlife within the region. The primary goal is to eradicate the tick before it spreads to new areas.

To view the full press release, visit

[www.nj.gov/agriculture/news/press/2017/approved/press171121.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/news/press/2017/approved/press171121.html).

### ***Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2017***

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and partners have released an updated *Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings*. Last updated in 2013, the 2017 Compendium provides standardized recommendations for public health officials, veterinarians and others working with animals that are concerned with control of disease and with minimizing health risks associated with animal contact in public settings.

Highlights of the 2017 Compendium include:

- Infectious diseases associated with animals in public settings
- Recommendations for animal exhibitors for disease prevention
- Recommendations regarding drinking water and unpasteurized food products in public settings
- Animal care and management
- Considerations regarding variant influenza

To view the 2017 Compendium, visit [avmajournals.avma.org/doi/pdf/10.2460/javma.251.11.1268](http://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/pdf/10.2460/javma.251.11.1268).

### **Have You Ever Heard of the Goiter Belt? Iowa is in it.**

If you've ever stopped to look at a container of table salt, you may have noticed the phrase "iodized salt."

Why is salt iodized?

The human body does not make iodine, which is needed for the production of thyroid hormone. If your iodine level is too low, the thyroid gland goes into overdrive and becomes swollen, with the term "goiter" referring to the swelling in the neck where the thyroid gland resides. Iodine deficiency disorders include intellectual disability, hypothyroidism, goiter, and varying degrees of other growth and developmental abnormalities. Iodine deficiency is the most preventable cause of intellectual disability in the world. Thyroid hormone is particularly important in the development of the central nervous system during the fetal and early postnatal periods. In areas where iodized salt is common, iodine deficiency is rare.

In the early 1900s, much of the northern continental U.S. was known as the "Goiter Belt." The people in this region, Iowa included, developed goiters because the soil lacked iodine and the food that they grew and ate was iodine deficient.

When iodine was added to table salt beginning in 1924, the incidence of goiter and other iodine deficiency disorders in the U.S. dropped dramatically.

Today, most people in the U.S. and other industrialized nations consume iodized table salt, which has dramatically lowered rates of iodine deficiency in these countries.

For more information on iodine and health, visit

[www.cdc.gov/nutritionreport/99-02/pdf/nr\\_ch4a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nutritionreport/99-02/pdf/nr_ch4a.pdf).

**In the news: Just two measles cases cost taxpayers \$68,192 in Colorado**

<https://www.forbes.com/forbes/welcome/?toURL=https://www.forbes.com/sites/tarahaelle/2017/11/25/just-two-measles-cases-cost-taxpayers-68192-in-colorado/&refURL=&referrer=#2cce33047107>

**In the news: Scarlet fever cases hit 50-year high in England**  
[www.bbc.com/news/health-42135842](http://www.bbc.com/news/health-42135842)

### Infographic: Your map to a food-safe holiday



To view in full-size, visit: [www.flickr.com/photos/usdafoodsafety/28153268153/in/album-72157671912703496/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/usdafoodsafety/28153268153/in/album-72157671912703496/)

### Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

### Have a healthy and happy week!

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