



**Epi Update for Friday, December 7, 2018**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **WHO: Measles cases spike globally due to gaps in vaccination coverage**
- **Worldwide emerging infectious diseases: Ebola, yellow fever, Heartland virus**
- **In the news: Nine health departments awarded accreditation through PHAB on November 20**
- **In the news: The lost world of prehistoric parasites**
- **In the news: Zombies are everywhere. Parasites mean you could be one too.**
- **Infographic: Wash your hands**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**WHO: Measles cases spike globally due to gaps in vaccination coverage**

Measles is preventable with two doses of vaccine and overall vaccination rates should be at least 95 percent to prevent measles outbreaks. Unfortunately, the global measles vaccine coverage rate for the first dose of vaccine is about 85 percent and second dose coverage is about 67 percent. As a result, measles outbreaks are continuing worldwide.

Measles cases rose globally in 2017, and many countries reported severe and protracted outbreaks. There were an estimated 110,000 deaths related to measles last year. The Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean Region and Europe experienced the greatest upsurges in cases in 2017. Since 2000, over 21 million lives have been saved through measles immunizations. Please continue to encourage vaccination for all vaccine eligible patients.

For additional information from WHO, visit

[www.who.int/news-room/detail/29-11-2018-measles-cases-spike-globally-due-to-gaps-in-vaccination-coverage](http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/29-11-2018-measles-cases-spike-globally-due-to-gaps-in-vaccination-coverage).

For additional information from CDC, visit

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6747a6.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6747a6.htm).

**Worldwide emerging infectious diseases: Ebola, yellow fever, Heartland virus**

The ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has grown to over 450 cases, making it the second largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded. In total, 263 infected individuals have died. The number of newly reported cases has slowed recently, but spread to neighboring countries and beyond remains a concern.

Ongoing yellow fever outbreaks in South America and Africa have prompted emergency vaccination campaigns in high risk areas. Worldwide demand for the vaccine has occasionally outpaced supply, and officials on both continents have successfully used fractional doses of the vaccine. Doses as low as 1/5 the standard size have been shown to produce an adequate immune response in most individuals. Although an effective option during times when vaccine is in urgent need and short supply, more research is needed to determine if fractional doses of yellow fever vaccine confer the same lifelong-immunity that full doses provide.

Emerging infectious diseases are not always so far away. A recent CDC study found that almost 1 percent of blood donors in Missouri showed laboratory evidence of past infection with Heartland virus, an emerging tickborne pathogen. Most of those with positive antibody tests lived in Daviess County, located just 40 miles south of the Iowa border.

For more information about ongoing infectious disease issues around the world, visit CDC's Travel Health Notices at [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices#warning](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices#warning).

**In the news: Nine health departments awarded accreditation through PHAB on November 20**

[www.phaboard.org/nine-more-health-departments-awarded-accreditation-through-phab-on-november-20/](http://www.phaboard.org/nine-more-health-departments-awarded-accreditation-through-phab-on-november-20/)

**In the news: The lost world of prehistoric parasites**

[blogs.scientificamerican.com/laelaps/the-lost-world-of-prehistoric-parasites/](http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/laelaps/the-lost-world-of-prehistoric-parasites/)

**In the news: Zombies are everywhere. Parasites mean you could be one too.**

[www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2018/11/zombies-parasites-infectious-disease-book-talk/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2018/11/zombies-parasites-infectious-disease-book-talk/)

**Infographic: Wash your hands**



To view in full size, visit [twitter.com/IAPublicHealth/status/1069973445407068160](https://twitter.com/IAPublicHealth/status/1069973445407068160).

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

IDPH is hosting the following APIC courses free of charge for infection preventionists in Iowa:

Geared towards new infection preventionists in the acute care setting, *Epi Intensive* is being offered March 5-8, 2019. For more information or to register, contact Tyra Goss at [tyra.goss@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:tyra.goss@idph.iowa.gov).

*Epi 101* and *Epi 102* are geared toward infection preventionists in long-term care settings. The courses will be offered four times during January and February, 2019. For more information or to register, contact Lisa Vitale at [lisa.vitale@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:lisa.vitale@idph.iowa.gov).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**  
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