

**Epi Update for Friday, November 1, 2019**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**Items for this week's Epi Update include:**

- **Reminder: Get vaccinated for influenza now, before activity increases!**
- **Pertussis testing and vaccination guidelines**
- **Antibiotic Awareness Week**
- **In the literature: Novel treatment of a vaccinia virus infection from an occupational needlestick — San Diego, California, 2019**
- **In the news: Measles wipe immune system's memory of other illnesses**
- **In the news: FDA expands Xofluza indication to people at high-risk for flu complications**
- **Infographic: One Health Day, November 3**

**Reminder: Get vaccinated for influenza now, before activity increases!**

Although influenza activity in Iowa is currently low and geographic spread is sporadic, laboratories throughout the state are reporting positive influenza results. In addition, several states south and east of Iowa have reported local, regional and widespread geographic spread. If you have not already, now is a good time to get vaccinated for influenza because it takes up to two weeks to develop full immunity. It is even more important for children aged 6 months through 8 years who require two doses to get vaccinated as soon as possible because the doses must be spaced at least four weeks apart. Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons 6 months and older who do not have contraindications.

For more information about influenza vaccination, visit [idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization/influenza/recommendations](http://idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization/influenza/recommendations).

**Pertussis testing and vaccination guidelines**

CADE has received several reports of pertussis in school-age children over the last couple weeks. Testing is very important to confirm a diagnosis of pertussis. The recommended test for pertussis is PCR, available at SHL and other laboratories. Serological testing for pertussis is not recommended because there is no commercial kit approved by FDA for diagnostic use. Diagnostic values of IgG to pertussis toxin have not been established, and current IgA and IgM pertussis assays lack adequate sensitivity and specificity.

To prevent spread, patients suspected or confirmed to have pertussis should stay home until five full days of appropriate antibiotic treatment, or until their cough has lasted at least 21 days.

The best way to prevent pertussis is to get vaccinated. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends a 3-dose primary series of DTaP, administered at 2, 4, and 6 months of age, followed by a first booster dose given at 15 through 18 months, and a second booster dose given at 4 through 6 years of age. Adolescents and adults should receive a single Tdap booster dose, preferably at 11 or 12 years of age.

For more information about pertussis, visit [idph.iowa.gov/cade/disease-information/pertussis](http://idph.iowa.gov/cade/disease-information/pertussis).

## Antibiotic Awareness Week

Each year, CDC designates a week in November as U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week. This year, Governor Kim Reynolds will similarly declare November 18 - 24 as Iowa Antibiotic Awareness Week.

This annual observance highlights steps everyone can take to improve antibiotic prescribing and use. Improving the way health care professionals prescribe antibiotics and the way we take antibiotics helps to fight antibiotic resistance.

For more information about antibiotic awareness, visit [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/week/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/week/index.html).

## In the literature: Novel treatment of a vaccinia virus infection from an occupational needlestick — San Diego, California, 2019

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6842a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6842a2\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6842a2.htm?s_cid=mm6842a2_w)

## In the news: Measles wipe immune system's memory of other illnesses

[www.cnn.com/2019/11/01/health/measles-amnesia-study-intl-hnk-scli-scn/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2019/11/01/health/measles-amnesia-study-intl-hnk-scli-scn/index.html)

## In the news: FDA expands Xofluza indication to people at high-risk for flu complications

[www.medscape.com/viewarticle/920030](http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/920030)

## Infographic: One Health Day, November 3



To view in full size, visit [www.cdc.gov/onehealth/one-health-day.html](http://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/one-health-day.html).

## Have a healthy and happy week!

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