

EPI Update for Friday, April 22, 2005

Center For Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **National Infant Immunization Week-April 24-30, 2005**
- **Avian Influenza Update**
- **April is STD Awareness Month**
- **Rabies Teleconference available via Webcast**
- **Foodborne Illness Continue Downward Trend**

National Infant Immunization Week-April 24-30, 2005

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is April 24-30, 2005. The theme this year is "Vaccination: an Act of Love. Love Them. Protect Them. Immunize Them." This annual event emphasizes the importance of timely infant and childhood vaccination, one of the most effective ways to protect infants and children from potentially serious diseases.

Because of increased emphasis on vaccination, the majority of vaccine-preventable diseases have decreased in incidence by approximately 99percent from peak prevaccine levels in the United States. In 2004, a total of 37 cases of measles, no cases of diphtheria, and no cases of wild poliovirus were reported in the United States. Approximately 11,000 infants are born each day in the United States; according to the recommended childhood immunization schedule, they require approximately 23 doses of vaccine before age two years to protect them from 12 vaccine-preventable diseases. (A child will actually receive significantly fewer than 23 injections because of the availability of combination vaccines.) Although vaccination coverage levels are high for children of preschool age, an estimated 27.5percent of children aged 19--35 months were missing one or more recommended vaccine doses in 2003.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5414a5.htm>

Iowa's immunization website can be found at:

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp> and contains information on the Vaccine for Children program, IRIS (the Immunization Registry Information System), as well as the childhood and adolescent immunization schedule.

Avian Influenza Update

Testing conducted on samples from the avian influenza outbreak recently identified in North Korea reveals it is an H7 strain with identification of the "N" subtype pending; not

the H5N1 strain that has been prevalent in Thailand and Viet Nam. No new cases of bird flu have been reported in North Korea since authorities destroyed approximately 210,000 chickens in late March 2005 and no human infections have been detected or reported. Historically, H7 avian influenza strains only cause mild illness in humans, such as conjunctivitis. An outbreak of H7N7 avian influenza in the Netherlands in Feb. 2003 identified 89 individuals with confirmed infections, with only one death.

Between January 28, 2004 and April 14, 2005, the cumulative number of confirmed human cases of avian influenza A H5N1 was:

Cambodia:	total cases:	3	deaths:	3
Thailand:	total cases:	17	deaths:	12
Viet Nam:	total cases:	68	deaths:	36

Overall total: 88 deaths: 51

Source: WHO website: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/

(The actual mortality rate is unknown since the only cases being counted are those ill enough to seek medical care. Preliminary sero-surveys suggest that people do have asymptomatic infections, thus the mortality rate may be low.)

April is STD Awareness Month

April is National Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Awareness Month, a health observance created to increase awareness about STDs, including their transmission, prevention, and treatment. STDs continue to be a major health threat in the United States, especially among adolescents and young adults. CDC estimates that 19 million new STD infections occur annually, nearly half of them among persons aged 15-to 24 years

*Untreated STDs can lead to potentially severe and costly health consequences. Annual direct medical costs of STDs among persons aged 15 to 24 years are estimated at \$6.5 billion *

STDs are preventable, and many are easily treated and cured. However, the majority of adolescents and young adults are not adequately screened for STDs. This is especially true for two of the most common STDs, chlamydia and gonorrhea. However, because they are often asymptomatic (especially in females), screening is necessary to detect infection. In 2003, only 29percent of young women aged 16-to 25 years in commercial managed health-care plans were screened for chlamydia, compared with breast and cervical cancer screening rates of approximately 75percent * CDC and professional organizations such as the American Medical Association recommend that all sexually active women over 25 years of age receive screening for chlamydia each year * Advances in diagnostic technology, including tests that can evaluate urine and vaginal swab specimens, enable screening for STDs in various settings, including school-based clinics and community-based organizations. Additional information regarding chlamydia and other STDs is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/std>.

*This article, with references, is available at:
<<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5415a7.htm>>.

Information about IDPH's STD program is available at:
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/std_control.asp> and contains find fact sheets, contact information and order STD materials.

Foodborne Illness Continue Downward Trend: 2010 Health Goals for E. Coli O157H:7 Reached

A report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) showed important declines in foodborne infections due to common bacterial pathogens in 2004.

For the first time, cases of E. coli O157 infections, one of the most severe foodborne diseases, are below the national Healthy People 2010 health goal. From 1996-2004, the incidence of E. coli O157 infections decreased 42 percent. Campylobacter infections decreased 31 percent, Cryptosporidium dropped 40 percent, and Yersinia decreased 45 percent.

Overall, Salmonella infections dropped 8 percent, but only one of the five most common strains declined significantly. Different Salmonella strains are found in a variety of animal hosts and in different geographic locations. Further efforts are needed to better understand why some Salmonella strains tend to contaminate produce during production and harvest.

The reduction in Campylobacter infections may be due to greater consumer awareness of safe poultry handling and cooking methods. Food safety education efforts targeted to specific foodborne hazards as well as general consumer tips, such as the public-private Fight Back campaign, have helped consumers become more aware and knowledgeable of food safety hazards and how to prevent them.

The incidence of Shigella did not change significantly from 1996 through 2004. Vibrio infections increased 47 percent, primarily associated with consumption of certain types of raw shellfish, can be prevented by thoroughly cooking seafood, especially oysters.

The full report, "Preliminary FoodNet Data on the Incidence of Infections with Pathogens Transmitted Commonly Through Food - Selected Sites, United States, 2004" appears in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (April 15, 2005) and is available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/weekcvol.html> <<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/index.html>>

To learn more about FoodNet please visit <<http://www.cdc.gov/foodnet/>>

To learn more about various foodborne pathogens, visit <<http://www.cdc.gov/az.do>> and search for the disease you are interested in.

Meeting Announcement and Training Opportunities

- **Rabies Teleconference now available via Webcast.** Were you unable to attend the rabies teleconference on April 5, 2005? You are in luck because now it is available through webcast at <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/NLTN/NPHTCS/rabies040505.aspx> . Through this site you can view the webcast and access the handouts from the presenters.
- **Free Public Health Courses Online.** Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has launched a project known as OpenCourseWare, which provides free online access to some of the school's most popular courses. Courses are not offered for credit and do not count toward a degree or certificate. Five courses are currently available, including "Problem Solving for Immunization Programs," and "History of Public Health." For more information, visit <http://ocw.jhsph.edu>
- **29th Annual Iowa Infection Control Seminar**
May 3-4, 2005
Iowa City, IA 52344
Quality Inn Highlander

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<http://www.uihc.uiowa.edu/corm/FolderHospitalEpiTraining.htm>