

## **EPI Update for Friday, August 26, 2005**

### **Center For Acute Disease Epidemiology**

#### **Iowa Department of Public Health**

##### *Items for this week's EPI Update include:*

- **Rabies: Exposure Assessment**
- **Immunization Action Coalition - "Vaccinate Women" Program**
- **Influenza Surveillance - Providers Still Needed**
- **West Nile Virus Update - First Human Case in Iowa**
- **Meeting Announcement and Training Opportunities - Correction**

##### **Rabies: Exposure Assessment**

Since this is the peak time of year for animal bites, bat encounters, and submission of animals for rabies testing, IDPH/CADE would like to review the guidelines and criteria for rabies exposure assessment.

Information on rabies is available in the Epi Manual printed version, and the website version at: [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/epi\\_manual/rabies.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/epi_manual/rabies.pdf)

**Iowa Dept. of Public Health is available for consultation for rabies exposure assessment and post-exposure treatment recommendations 24/7. Contact Dr. Susan L. Brockus, State Public Health Veterinarian, by calling 800- 362-2736.**

Determination and assessment of human exposure is based on national guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and includes:

**Bite Exposure:** an animal (bat, skunk, raccoon, dog, cat, horse, cow) has bitten a person.

**Non-bite Exposure:** a person has had saliva contact from an animal to an open, fresh, bleeding wound or cut; or saliva contact to their eyes, nose, or mouth.

##### **Possible Exposure:**

Waking up to find a bat in your room or the room of a family member who was asleep.  
Sighting a bat in the room with a mentally impaired or intoxicated person.  
Sighting a bat in the room with an unattended child.  
Sighting a bat in the room with someone who cannot communicate whether or not they had direct contact with the bat.

Rabies exposure assessment flow charts are available on IDPH's website at:  
<[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies\\_exposure\\_all\\_animals.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies_exposure_all_animals.pdf)>  
and <[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies\\_exposure\\_bats.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies_exposure_bats.pdf)>

The CDC's website on rabies is available at: <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/>>

### **Immunization Action Coalition - "Vaccinate Women" Program**

The August 2005 issue of Vaccinate Women is now available on the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) website. Hard copies were recently mailed to all members of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). This publication was supported by a cooperative grant by the Division of Viral Hepatitis at the (CDC). It was distributed free of charge by ACOG.

The new issue is filled with reliable, practical information intended to assist obstetricians/gynecologists in providing immunization services in their healthcare settings.

#### **HOW TO READ "VACCINATE WOMEN" ON THE WEB**

You can view selected articles from the table of contents below or download the entire issue from the Web. To view the table of contents with links to individual articles, go to:  
<<http://www.immunize.org/vw/>>

Please note: The PDF file of the entire issue, linked below, is 297,245 bytes. For tips on downloading and printing PDF files, go to: <<http://www.immunize.org/nslt.d/tips.htm>>.

To download a ready-to-print (PDF) version of the entire issue, go to:  
<<http://www.immunize.org/vw/vw0805.pdf>>.

### **Are You a Healthcare Provider? Do you See Patients with Influenza-like Illness? Is Your Practice in Iowa?**

*If you answered 'Yes' to the above questions then you are eligible to participate in the Iowa Influenza Sentinel Provider Network.*

The Iowa Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) and the University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) are currently recruiting healthcare providers to participate in the 2005-06 Iowa Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network. Data from sentinel providers are *absolutely critical for monitoring the impact of influenza.*

### **Help Needed from Northern Iowa...**

At this point no providers have been identified in Northern Iowa! If you are even remotely interested in the program please contact Meghan Harris (contact information listed below) as soon as possible!

### **What is Required to be a Sentinel Provider?**

Sentinel providers report on a weekly basis the total number of patient visits per week and number of patient visits for influenza-like illness by age group to a surveillance website sponsored by the CDC. You will also be asked to submit *occasional* specimens from patients with influenza-like illness to UHL for virus isolation and strain sub-typing **free of charge**.

If you choose to become a sentinel provider, CADE will work with your office to determine an efficient way of capturing the necessary data.

### **What are the incentives?**

- Online, instant access to your lab results (no more waiting for the mail), in addition to **free** test kits and **free** testing of specimens,
- Subscriptions to the MMWR and Emerging Infectious Disease journals,
- Customized weekly reports detailing the activity in your office and throughout Iowa,
- *The knowledge that YOU are contributing to an essential state and national surveillance network responsible for protecting and promoting the health of the public every influenza season!*

### **How do you sign up to be sentinel provider?**

Time is short! Providers of any specialty in any type of practice are encouraged to participate. If interested contact **Meghan Harris** at IDPH, by telephone at **515-281-7134** or via email at [mharris@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:mharris@idph.state.ia.us) as soon as possible.

### **West Nile Virus Update - First Human Case in Iowa**

The first human case of West Nile virus in Iowa for the year was reported this week. The young boy from Northwest Iowa is doing well and recovering at home. A confirmatory testing was conducted by the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory. Although this first case this year was reported over a month later than the first case last year, Iowa typically sees the majority of human cases in the later part of August and September. The peak of West Nile virus activity usually occurs around the second week of September in Iowa.. Fourteen counties have identified West Nile activity through positive dead birds, horses, sentinel chickens, and/or mosquito pools. Although only fourteen counties have identified activity, it is important to stress that it is likely that West Nile virus is present in every county since the counties have been distributed across the state. This first human case reminds us that West Nile virus can affect anybody of any age and everyone should take precautions. There is no specific treatment or vaccine at this time for humans and the best way to avoid getting the disease is to avoid being bitten by a mosquito. Use insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Keep skin covered as

much as possible when outdoors and limit being outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

For more information on West Nile visit IDPH's website at:

[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/wnv\\_surveillance.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/wnv_surveillance.asp) .

The West Nile virus hotline for the general public is 1-866-WNV- IOWA. For information on West Nile virus testing visit UHL's website at:

<http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu/services/diseases/mosquitoborne/wnv/humantesting.html> .

### **Meeting Announcement and Training Opportunities**

#### **Fall Epi Update Brochure**

The brochure for the fall *Epidemiology Updates* is now online at the Iowa Department of Public Health's Web site at:

[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/common/pdf/conferences/disease\\_prevention\\_fall.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/common/pdf/conferences/disease_prevention_fall.pdf).

- Please note that there is a correction in the course number for the October 27<sup>th</sup> update at Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services (KTOS) center in Marion.