

EPI Update for Friday, February 3  
Center For Acute Disease Epidemiology  
Iowa Department of Public Health

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

- Revised hepatitis B immunization strategy
- Influenza update
- 2005 annual report on trends in national health
- Increase in potential mumps cases in Iowa
- Don't commit personal fouls serving bad Super Bowl party foods
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

**Revised hepatitis B immunization strategy**

“A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States” was presented in the Dec. 23, 2005, issue of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, as published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Vol. 54/No.RR-16.) This report focused on the revised immunization recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to ensure that newborn infants are protected from hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.

ACIP now recommends that universal infant hepatitis B vaccination should begin at birth. All pregnant women should be routinely tested for HBsAg. To prevent HBV transmission among children who are at greatest risk for HBV infection (i.e. born to an HbsAg positive mother) both Hep B vaccination and Hep B immune globulin should be given at birth. All unvaccinated children and adolescents under 19 years old should receive hepatitis vaccine. For more details on the vaccination of infants, and the full recommendations, consult <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5416a1.htm>

**Influenza update**

***Seasonal Influenza: Iowa and the United States***

Iowa continues at regional activity. Cases of influenza remain steady and reports of influenza-like illness in the sentinel provider population are decreasing. Schools and child care centers have seen an increase in absences due to illness. Several schools are reporting greater than 10 percent absenteeism. Counties with schools reporting greater than 10 percent absenteeism are Benton and Madison. For more information on the Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network or to view our activity map, visit our Web site at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/flu.asp>

## *Avian influenza*

Avian influenza has now been confirmed in Iraq. A 15-year-old female died of H5N1 influenza on Jan. 17. The case occurred in the northern part of the country near the border with Turkey. No activity in birds has been confirmed yet. As of Jan. 30, the World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed a total of 160 cases and 85 deaths due to H5N1 influenza.

## *Pandemic influenza planning efforts*

The NEW IDPH Pandemic Influenza Web site is now LIVE! Please visit the site at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/pandemic/default.asp> Also, on Feb. 3, Gov. Tom Vilsack and Lt. Gov. Sally Pederson will welcome U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt to Des Moines for Iowa's Pandemic Influenza Planning and Response Summit.

## **2005 annual report on trends in national health statistics**

*Health, United States* is an annual report on trends in health statistics. The report consists of two main sections: A chartbook containing text and figures that illustrates major trends in the health of Americans; and a section that contains 156 detailed data tables. The two main components are supplemented by an executive summary, a highlights section, an extensive appendix and reference section and an index. The document is available on-line and can be downloaded as a PDF file. In addition, a large number of the charts are available as PowerPoint presentations. Tables are available as Excel files. Refer to [www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm).

## **Increase in potential mumps cases in Iowa**

Iowa is experiencing an increase in reports of parotid gland swelling and positive testing for Mumps IgM antibodies. The test for mumps IgM antibodies has been shown to cross-react with other viruses that may cause parotid swelling, thus causing false positives. This being the case, IDPH is requesting additional information on persons reported with parotid swelling and/or a positive mumps IgM antibody test. However, one recent case of true mumps has been confirmed through a parotid gland culture (case occurred in eastern Iowa).

The mumps information in the EPI Manual is being updated. A case report form is also being developed and will appear at the end of the chapter on mumps. This information will be available on the IDPH Web site no later than close of business on Monday. Please go to [www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/epi\\_manual/mumps.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/epi_manual/mumps.pdf) for up the updated information. For those of you who have hard copies of the EPI Manual please replace the current mumps chapter with the updated chapter.

## **Don't commit personal fouls serving bad Super Bowl party foods**

Super Bowl Sunday is now the second highest day for food consumption in the United States. In a clever bit of consumer education, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the USDA gives hints to avoid foodborne illness caused by mishandling food at Super Bowl parties. The article outlines a variety of actions that could earn the host a “penalty.” A personal foul occurs when the health of your guests is placed in jeopardy because you fail to follow one or more of the FSIS basic food safety messages. You can avoid the penalty flag by using the following tips to help keep friends and family safe from foodborne illness:

- Clean - Wash hands and surfaces often.
- Separate - Don't cross-contaminate. Keep raw meat and poultry apart from cooked foods.
- Cook - Use a food thermometer to be sure meat and poultry are safely cooked.
- Chill - Refrigerate or freeze promptly.

For more tips (penalties) go to  
[www.fsis.usda.gov/News %26 Events/NR 012706 01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_%26_Events/NR_012706_01/index.asp).

### **Clarification on last week's article about *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in hot tubs**

The article stated that *P. aeruginosa* is able to withstand temperatures up to 41 degrees, but we failed to mention that this was 41 degrees Celsius (about 106 degrees Fahrenheit). A hot tub at 41 degrees F. would be closer to refrigerator temperatures and would certainly be a little cold!

### **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

The 2006 Public Health Conference, *Strengthening Our Voice – Making Public Health a Priority*, will be held March 27 and 28 at the Scheman Conference Center at Iowa State University. A copy of the brochure can be downloaded from  
[www.idph.state.ia.us/common/pdf/conferences/brochure\\_032806.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/common/pdf/conferences/brochure_032806.pdf).

**Have a healthy and happy week**

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**800-362-2736**