



Epi Update for Friday, July 9, 2021

Office of the Public Health Medical Director
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Recall of LeadCare(R) lead tests due to risk of falsely low results**
- **Reopening buildings safely after prolonged shutdown or reduced operation**
- **Rabies resources available from IDPH**
- **In the news: Delta is now the dominant coronavirus variant in the U.S.**
- **In the news: US death rates are falling for many types of cancer, but not all**
- **Infographic: Recommendations for managing human rabies exposure**

Recall of LeadCare(R) lead tests due to risk of falsely low results

Magellan Diagnostics, Inc. and FDA have issued a recall notice concerning the use of some LeadCare® Blood Lead Tests (certain LeadCare II, LeadCare Plus, and LeadCare Ultra test kit lots). These lots were distributed between October 27, 2020, and June 15, 2021. The use of these devices may cause serious injuries because they might underestimate blood lead levels. The FDA has identified this as a Class I recall, the most serious type of recall.

For questions regarding other options for blood lead testing, contact the IDPH Lead Prevention Program at 1-800-972-2026.

CDC has issued a Health Advisory to notify partners about the recall and recommend follow-up actions. To view the Health Advisory, visit emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00445.asp.

Reopening buildings safely after prolonged shutdown or reduced operation

Many businesses temporarily shut down or reduced operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reductions in normal water use can create hazards for returning occupants including mold, *Legionella*, and lead and copper contamination. For example, *Legionella* risk may increase if water heater temperature is reduced or when disinfectants in the water are not circulating during periods of non-use.

Having and implementing a plan for building maintenance can reduce hazards from periods of low water use, including regular inspection of heating, air conditioning, and plumbing.

For more information, including training on developing a water management plan, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html.

Rabies resources available from IDPH

Consultations regarding potential rabies exposures peak at IDPH in the summer and fall as interactions between animals and people increase. Any mammal is capable of transmitting rabies, mostly via bites, but also if their saliva or brain tissue comes in contact with an open wound or mucous membrane (e.g. eyes, nose, mouth).

IDPH has a dedicated web page for rabies resources, customized for three audiences: the public, health care providers, and veterinarians. Resources include flow charts for evaluating potential exposures, guidelines for post-exposure prophylaxis, testing options, and much more.

A few things to remember regarding rabies:

- Rabies is nearly 100% fatal in humans, but proper post-exposure prophylaxis is 100% effective at preventing rabies.
- Quarantine of dogs, cats, and ferrets is enforced at the local level, and a list of points of contact regarding quarantine enforcement is available on the IDPH rabies web page.
- If someone is sleeping in a room where a bat is discovered, they may need post-exposure prophylaxis, even if they are unsure if the bat touched them.
- An animal that potentially exposed a human to rabies can be tested for free at SHL.

IDPH is available 24/7/365 for rabies consultation at 515-242-5935.

To view the IDPH rabies web page, visit idph.iowa.gov/rabies.

In the news: Delta is now the dominant coronavirus variant in the U.S.

www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/07/06/1013582342/delta-is-now-the-dominant-coronavirus-variant-in-the-u-s

In the news: US death rates are falling for many types of cancer, but not all

www.cnn.com/2021/07/08/health/us-cancer-deaths-decline/index.html

Infographic: Recommendations for managing human rabies exposure

Animal Species	Situation	Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Recommendations
Dogs, cats, ferrets	Animal available for testing or 10 day confinement and observation	If the animal is exhibiting symptoms consistent with rabies, immediately euthanize and test. If the animal is not exhibiting symptoms, a 10 day confinement period can be instituted. If the animal exhibits signs of rabies during the 10 day confinement period, it should be euthanized immediately and tested. If results are positive, unsuitable or indeterminate administer PEP immediately. If the animal does not exhibit clinical signs during the 10 day confinement period, PEP is not recommended, since the animal was not exposed to the virus at the time of the bite or saliva exposure.
	Animal unavailable (waiting up to 72 hours to capture the animal may be reasonable, assuming the correct animal can be identified)	If the animal is not available for confinement or testing, administer PEP. (If the animal is captured later contact IDPH at 800-362-2736.)
Horses or other farm animals	If the animal exhibits signs of rabies or dies suddenly, test the animal for rabies.	Defer administration of PEP until outcome of testing. If results are positive, unsuitable or indeterminate, administer PEP.
	All other cases, contact IDPH for guidance.	Contact IDPH at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours.
Skunk, raccoon, fox, coyote	Euthanize and test animal	Defer administration of PEP until outcome of testing. If results are positive, unsuitable or indeterminate, administer PEP.
	Animal unavailable for testing	Administer PEP immediately.
Large rodents: such as beavers, muskrats, or groundhogs	Euthanize and test animal	Defer administration of PEP until outcome of testing. If results are positive, unsuitable or indeterminate administer PEP.
	Animal unavailable for testing	Contact IDPH for consultation at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours.
Small rodents: such as squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice, rabbits, or opossum	Provoked bite and animal behaving normal	No PEP is recommended, as these species almost never carry rabies.
	Unprovoked bite or animal behaving abnormal	Contact IDPH for consultation at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours.

Exposure: a bite or saliva/neurotic tissue contact to an open wound or mucous membrane

NOTE: If the patient was bitten above the shoulders, IDPH recommends that the health care provider consider starting PEP immediately. PEP can be discontinued if the animal tests negative for rabies or is healthy at the end of the quarantine period.

Thoroughly wash all wounds with soap and water and, if available, flush with povidone iodine solution (or other virucidal solution). Evaluate tetanus vaccination status, update if needed.

To view in full size, visit [idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Files/Rabies/Animal%20 Rabies Chart 130618.pdf](http://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Files/Rabies/Animal%20Rabies%20Chart%20130618.pdf).

Have a healthy and happy week!

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