



Epi Update for Friday, October 8, 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:

- Update to Iowa's COVID-19 testing program
- Iowa COVID-19 vaccination statistics, importance of influenza vaccination
- To prescribe or not prescribe?

Update to Iowa's COVID-19 testing program

IDPH, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), and SHL are adjusting the state's approach to provide convenient, free COVID-19 testing statewide. The recently launched [testing locator](#) map at coronavirus.iowa.gov helps Iowans find testing near them by city or zip code. The map includes all Test Iowa test kit pick-up sites, and locations across the state where in-person testing is available. The tool also includes an overview of the types of tests offered and associated costs.

To provide more timely results, seven Test Iowa pick-up sites will provide same day delivery to SHL, Monday-Friday. Test Iowa pick-up and drop-off sites with same day delivery to SHL are:

- Black Hawk County: Peoples Community Health Clinic, 905 Franklin Street, Waterloo
- Linn County Public Health: 1020 6th Street Southeast, Cedar Rapids
- Johnson County Public Health: 855 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City
- Polk County Public Health: 1907 Carpenter, Des Moines
- Pottawattamie County Public Health: 600 South 4th Street, Council Bluffs
- Scott County Public Health: 600 W 4th Street, Davenport
- Woodbury County, Siouxland District Health Department: 1014 Nebraska Street, Sioux City

Increased demand for testing is putting additional strain on health care clinics and emergency rooms. To ensure that Iowa's health care resources are available for those who need care, IDPH recommends that Iowans consider the following testing options:

- Iowans with mild symptoms or who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual should seek testing in a health care setting or use Test Iowa at home.
- Iowans seeking testing for travel or other proactive purposes should purchase a home test kit from a retailer or pharmacy, or schedule a pharmacy appointment.
- Individuals experiencing severe symptoms or those who are at high risk of serious illness should seek medical care.

For more information, visit www.testiowa.com.

Iowa COVID-19 vaccination statistics, importance of influenza vaccination

The number of Iowans vaccinated for COVID-19 continues to grow. According to CDC, 71% of Iowans over the age of 18 have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and nearly 69% of Iowa's total vaccine eligible population, which includes those 12 years of age and older, have received at least one dose. Iowans age 65 and older have the highest vaccination rate at 92%.

Between 75%-80% of Iowans recently hospitalized due to COVID-19 were unvaccinated when they became infected, and 80-90% of those admitted to an intensive care unit were unvaccinated. These figures underscore how essential it is for all Iowans who are eligible to get vaccinated for COVID-19. The vaccine is the best tool we have to keep ourselves and our families healthy and to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.

Finally, as influenza season approaches, IDPH urges all Iowans to get the influenza vaccine. By getting vaccinated for both influenza and COVID-19, we can prevent avoidable hospitalizations and help preserve health care resources for other needs, including illnesses, injuries, and emergencies. Anyone with questions about either vaccine should reach out to their health care provider.

For more information about vaccinations, visit idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization.

To prescribe or not prescribe?

Results from a recent worldwide survey of hospitals suggests that the Global Point Prevalence Survey of Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance (Global-PPS) has helped inform antimicrobial stewardship activities. Hospitals from 74 countries reported common prescribing problems, including high relative use of certain classes of antibiotics (62%), prolonged surgical antibiotic prophylaxis (61%), and a high antimicrobial use prevalence (60%).

To help improve antimicrobial prescribing practices in the U.S., where as many as 28% of the antibiotic courses prescribed each year are unnecessary, CDC has created the *Be Antibiotics Aware* campaign. The campaign features information for health care professionals and patients, including materials about when antibiotics are needed (certain bacterial infections) and when they are not (viral infections). The campaign culminates every November with Antibiotic Awareness Week.

As this year's Antibiotic Awareness Week approaches, stay tuned in to the Epi Update to learn how you can participate and help promote proper antimicrobial use!

To view the full study, visit

aricjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13756-021-01010-w.

For the complete CIDRAP regarding Global-PPS, visit

www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/09/stewardship-resistance-scan-sep-30-2021.

To learn more about CDC's *Be Antibiotics Aware*, visit www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/index.html.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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