



Epi Update for Friday, June 24, 2022

**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:

- **Monkeypox update**
- **West Nile virus detected in mosquito sample. Avoid mosquito and tick bites!**
- **CDC Heat and Health Tracker**
- **In the news: CDC investigates 'one of the worst outbreaks of meningococcal disease' in US history among gay and bisexual men in Florida**
- **In the news: Poliovirus in London sewage sparks alarm**
- **Infographic: Avoid, spot, treat: Heat stroke and heat exhaustion**

Monkeypox update

Cases of monkeypox continue to be identified in countries that don't normally report monkeypox, with the highest case counts occurring in Europe, Canada, and the U.S. As of June 23, 3,504 cases have been identified in 44 countries. A total of 172 cases have been identified in the U.S., with California (48), New York (23), Illinois (19), and Florida (16) reporting the most cases. No cases have been identified in Iowa.

Early data suggest that gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men make up a high number of cases. However, anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has monkeypox is at risk.

If clinicians identify patients with a rash that could be consistent with monkeypox, especially those with a recent travel history to central or West African countries, parts of Europe where monkeypox has been reported, or other areas reporting monkeypox cases, monkeypox should be considered as a possible diagnosis.

Clinicians must report suspected monkeypox cases to IDPH as soon as monkeypox is suspected and prior to collecting specimens. IDPH will consult with CDC and SHL to determine the need and plan for laboratory testing.

- Contact IDPH by calling 515-242-5935 during business hours or 515-323-4360 outside of business hours.
- Contact SHL by calling 319-335-4500 or 1-800-421-4692.

For more information about the ongoing outbreak, including clinical characteristics of monkeypox lesions, visit www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/index.html.

West Nile virus detected in mosquito sample. Avoid mosquito and tick bites!

The first West Nile virus positive mosquito sample of the year in Iowa has been detected in Black Hawk County. The mosquito sample was collected at the end of May and tested for the virus SHL. In 2021, 81 out of the 1,386 mosquito samples tested in Iowa were positive for West Nile virus.

There have been no reported human cases in Iowa thus far in 2022. In 2021, six human cases of West Nile virus were detected.

West Nile virus, a mosquito-borne illness, is not the only vector-borne threat in Iowa. Tick-borne diseases also occur in Iowa. Two cases of anaplasmosis, two cases of babesiosis, one case of ehrlichiosis, and 27 cases of Lyme disease have been detected in Iowa thus far in 2022.

Taking steps to avoid mosquito and tick bites, including using insect repellent, is important to prevent illness. For more information about prevention, visit www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/about/prevent-bites.html.

For more information on vector-borne diseases in Iowa, visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/cade/vectorborne-illness>.

CDC Heat and Health Tracker

Extreme heat events have long threatened public health in the U.S. The CDC Heat and Health Tracker provides local heat and health information so communities can better prepare for and respond to extreme heat events.

Resources include heat related morbidity and mortality data, an interactive map of heat related ED visits by region, and average maximum temperature by county by week/day. Also included are monthly projections of the number of days expected to reach dangerous levels of heat vs. climatological norms.

For more information, visit <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/Applications/heatTracker/>.

In the news: CDC investigates 'one of the worst outbreaks of meningococcal disease' in US history among gay and bisexual men in Florida

www.cnn.com/2022/06/22/health/florida-meningococcal-disease-outbreak/index.html

In the news: Poliovirus in London sewage sparks alarm

www.science.org/content/article/poliovirus-in-london-sewage-sparks-alarm

Infographic: Avoid, spot, treat: Heat stroke and heat exhaustion



To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/cpr/documents/avoid-spot-treat-heat.pdf.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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