

Epi Update for Friday, October 7, 2022

CENTER FOR ACUTE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (CADE)
BUREAU OF HIV, STD, AND HEPATITIS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Items for this week's Epi Update include

- **Outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Central Uganda**
- **Resources and requests for the 2022-23 influenza season**
- **Protecting everyone entering a health care facility**
- **Infographic: Iowa influenza surveillance webinar for the 2022-23 season**

Outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Central Uganda

CDC issued a Health Advisory on October 6 about a recently confirmed outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Uganda caused by Sudan virus. As of October 6, a total of 44 confirmed cases, 10 confirmed deaths, and 20 probable deaths of EVD have been identified in Uganda. The geographic scope of the outbreak is currently limited to five districts in central Uganda and not the capital Kampala or the travel hub of Entebbe. No suspected, probable, or confirmed EVD cases related to this outbreak have yet been reported in the U.S.

Health care providers should be vigilant for and evaluate any patients suspected of having EVD, particularly among people who have recently traveled to impacted areas in Uganda.

Symptoms of EVD include:

- Fever
- Aches and pains, such as severe headache and muscle and joint pain
- Weakness and fatigue
- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Gastrointestinal symptoms including abdominal pain, diarrhea, and vomiting
- Unexplained hemorrhaging, bleeding, or bruising

Be aware that many illnesses associated with travel can have similar symptoms, including influenza, malaria, or typhoid fever.

It is important for health care providers to:

- Consistently collect routine travel history information during investigations and clinical evaluations of patients
- Isolate patients suspected for EVD
- Use appropriate PPE (Standard, Droplet, and Contact precautions)
- Promptly report suspected cases of travel-associated illness to public health at (800) 362-2736 or (515) 323-4360 if after hours

To view the full CDC Health Advisory, visit emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/han00477.asp.

For more information on Ebola and health care settings, visit www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/index.html.

Resources and requests for the 2022-23 influenza season

The 2022-23 influenza surveillance season officially started on October 2. With this in mind, below are a number of resources as well as a request for your help with respiratory virus surveillance.

Iowa Influenza Surveillance Webinar for the 2022-23 Season: Wednesday, October 12, 10-11:30 AM

Iowa HHS and SHL present this annual webinar for local public health, health care providers, infection control staff, laboratorians, school nurses, long-term care facilities and others involved in respiratory virus surveillance. Presenters will review the 2021-22 season, describe Iowa's Influenza Surveillance System for 2022-23, explain updated immunization guidance, and discuss guidance for long-term care outbreak response and antiviral use. Visit us02web.zoom.us/j/82987096683?pwd=Lzdna2VMckdoNXg0MFRCRTgxVC8xQT09 to register for this webinar. Those who register will receive the slides and recording shortly after completion of the webinar.

CDC 2022-2023 influenza vaccination campaign kickoff

Now is the time to get vaccinated if you haven't already. Visit the CDC kick-off website for influenza immunization information including previous season data, current recommendations, and communication resources: www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/2022-2023/2022-23-vaccination-kickoff.htm

Weekly influenza, respiratory surveillance reports resume on October 14

Iowa HHS will resume weekly influenza and other respiratory virus surveillance reports starting Friday, October 14. Visit idph.iowa.gov/influenza/reports to access reports or subscribe to email updates.

Please help Iowa HHS and SHL collect respiratory virus data that represents all of Iowa

There are a number of ways Iowa HHS and SHL gather the information we share on our surveillance reports, but we need help to get data from all parts of Iowa to accurately reflect respiratory virus activity in Iowa.

Iowa Respiratory Virus Laboratory Survey – redcap.link/iowalabs22-23

Iowa laboratories report weekly totals of respiratory tests and positive results by test type

Iowa Influenza Hospitalization Survey - redcap.link/iowahospital22-23

Hospitals report weekly number of influenza hospitalizations by age group

Iowa Weekly School Illness Survey - redcap.link/iowaweeklyschool22-23

Iowa 10% Illness Survey - redcap.link/iowaschool10pct22-23

Schools report weekly illness totals and days where student absenteeism due to illness is 10% or above

Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance (ILINet)

Outpatient clinics including emergency departments and urgent care clinics report weekly influenza illness by age group. Contact the Iowa HHS influenza epidemiologist Andy Weigel at 515-322-1937 or andy.weigel@idph.iowa.gov if you are interested or have a clinic to recommend.

Long-term Care Influenza Outbreak Reporting

Long-term care facilities report suspected influenza outbreaks. Contact CADE at 800-362-2736 to report a suspected outbreak.

Influenza Surveillance Testing

Iowa health care providers and laboratories can submit one influenza specimen per week for surveillance from symptomatic outpatients with positive results and any specimen from inpatients admitted for influenza. More information will be available during the influenza webinar and posted online shortly after.

Protecting everyone entering a health care facility

The Iowa HHS Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Program has partnered with the University of Iowa School of Public Health to educate anyone entering a health care facility on infection prevention and control steps they can take to protect both themselves and others. Print and digital materials, including short animated videos, are currently under development. To ensure any materials under development serve the actual needs of health care facilities in Iowa, the HAI Program is conducting a short survey to find out what types of educational materials facilities are interested in using as well as where in the facility they would like to use them. Survey feedback will help guide material development.

Please encourage anyone working in a healthcare facility to complete the survey, available at redcap.idph.state.ia.us/surveys/?s=4PMLKXKKNCM4CKYL

Infographic: Iowa influenza surveillance webinar for the 2022-23 season

STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF Health AND Human SERVICES PRESENTS

IOWA INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE WEBINAR FOR THE 2022-23 SEASON

ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12
AT 10-11:30 AM CST
1.5 PACE CREDITS

Zoom Link
Meeting ID: 829 8709 6683
Password: 432352
to register for this webinar. If you register for the webinar, you will receive the slides and recording shortly after completion of the webinar

PRESENTERS

Andrew Weigel
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
Influenza Epidemiologist

Andrew Hennent, DVM, MPH, DACVPM HAI
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
Program Manager

Shelly Jensen, RN, BSN
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
Immunization Nurse Clinician

Jeff Benfer, MS, MB (ASCP)cm
University of Iowa
State Hygienic Lab
Supervisor of Virology and Molecular Biology

DESCRIPTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

During the webinar, Iowa HHS and SHL staff will review the 2021 - 22 flu season, describe the Iowa influenza surveillance system for 2022 - 23, explain updated influenza immunization guidance, outline the Iowa strategy for influenza surveillance testing and discuss guidance for long-term care outbreak response and antiviral use.

Audience:

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) and the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa (SHL) present this annual webinar for local public health, health care providers, infection control staff, laboratories, school nurses, long-term care facilities and others involved in respiratory virus surveillance.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact (Laina Edwards) in advance at (319-467-1303).

(319) 335-4500
(800) 421-4692

490 Crosspark Road
Coralville, IA 52241-4721

<http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/>

To view in full size, visit

www.shl.uiowa.edu/news/iowa_Influenza_Surveillance_Webinar_for_the_2022-23_Season.pdf

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
800-362-2736

Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis
515-281-6801