

## Epi Update for Friday, December 9, 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

- **December 5: Dr. Ann Garvey Appreciation Day**
- **Mpox testing no longer requires Iowa HHS approval, call center closing**
- ***Neisseria meningitidis* reporting reminder**
- ***Bordetella parapertussis***
- **Child products recalled due to lead hazards**
- **In the news: FDA approves first fecal microbiota product**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

### **December 5: Dr. Ann Garvey Appreciation Day**

Governor Kim Reynolds proclaimed December 5 as Dr. Ann Garvey Appreciation Day. Ann's family and members of the CADE team were invited to the Governor's Office to receive the proclamation and to share memories about this remarkable woman.

Although we are still grieving this loss deeply, having an opportunity each year to remember and honor Ann will serve as a reminder of her love for her work and the state of Iowa. Ann was a committed public servant whose life and memory could not be more deserving of this honor.

### **Mpox testing no longer requires Iowa HHS approval, call center closing**

Mpox (formerly monkeypox) cases continue to decrease nationally, and the last case of mpox identified in Iowa was in mid-October.

Effective immediately, health care providers will no longer be required to contact Iowa HHS to receive approval for mpox testing at SHL. Testing remains available at SHL, as well as multiple reference laboratories. SHL will accept lesion swabs in Viral Transport Media (VTM) or RT M4 Transport media and will continue to supply mpox collection kits to facilities upon request.

In addition, the mpox call center at Iowa HHS has closed. As always, Iowa HHS remains available to answer questions and concerns related to mpox. Questions related to mpox may be directed to the Division of Public Health's main line at (515) 281-7689.

For more information about testing for mpox at SHL, visit [www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/menupages/orthopoxvirus.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/menupages/orthopoxvirus.xml).

For more information about mpox from CDC, visit [www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html).

### ***Neisseria meningitidis* reporting reminder**

Identification of invasive *N. meningitidis* is immediately reportable in Iowa. Invasive *N. meningitidis* is defined as identification of the bacteria from a normally sterile site. Common examples include blood and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), but can include other areas of the body. Common non-sterile sites include nasal or throat swabs and sputum – identification of *N. meningitidis* from these specimens is not reportable.

If you suspect a patient may have *N. meningitidis* or have questions regarding whether or not a specimen was collected from a sterile site, contact CADE immediately at 515-242-5935 (during business hours) or 515-323-4360 (outside business hours).

For more information about *N. meningitidis*, visit [www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/index.html).

### ***Bordetella parapertussis***

Although parapertussis is caused by bacteria similar to *B. pertussis* (whooping cough), they are not the same illness. *B. parapertussis* does not produce pertussis toxin, and symptoms are typically milder than whooping cough. Parapertussis is not a reportable disease in Iowa. There is no vaccine for parapertussis and the vaccine for pertussis does not offer protection against parapertussis. Parapertussis can be distinguished from pertussis via diagnostic testing. Consult with your laboratory for more information.

### **Child products recalled due to lead hazards**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced the recall of two child products due to lead hazards:

- Green Sprouts Toddler's Stainless-Steel Bottles and Cups
- Bentex children's clothing sets in nine different Disney themed styles



Iowa HHS encourages providers and health professionals to:

- raise awareness among parents about these products.
- encourage parents to stop using these items and contact the companies for information on returning the product or a refund of the purchase price.
- consider testing children for lead exposure from these and other sources.

For more information about these recalls, including specific items being recalled, visit [www.cpsc.gov/Recalls](http://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls).

### **In the news: FDA approves first fecal microbiota product**

[www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-fecal-microbiota-product](http://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-fecal-microbiota-product)

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

Iowa HHS and ECRI is presenting the *Safe Injection Practices* webinar on December 14 from 12-1 PM. The target audience includes Iowa's frontline health care workers with a focus on those who interact persons seeking health care, including environmental services personnel, emergency medical services personnel, pharmacists, home health service providers, therapists, dietitians, and non-clinical staff. CDC defines safe injection practices as a set of measures taken to perform injections in an optimally safe manner for patients, healthcare personnel, and others. Unsafe injection practices put patients and healthcare personnel at risk of disease transmission, including bacterial infections or bloodborne pathogens. Continuing education credits will be available. To register, visit [ecri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_iKw7lbfiSt-yTllx4JND3A](http://ecri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iKw7lbfiSt-yTllx4JND3A).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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