

Epi Update for Friday, January 13, 2023

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

- **Ebola outbreak in Uganda declared over**
- **Recommendation for opt-out syphilis testing in northwest Iowa prompted by rapid increases in diagnoses**

Ebola outbreak in Uganda declared over

As of January 11, the Ebola outbreak in Uganda has been declared over by WHO. A total of two incubation periods (42 days) passed without a newly identified case in Uganda. No cases were identified outside of Uganda during the outbreak.

As a result, CDC has discontinued public health risk assessments at US ports of entry. Travelers from Uganda will therefore no longer be monitored by public health. In addition, CDC has removed the Ebola Travel Health Notice for Uganda.

Recommendation for opt-out syphilis testing in northwest Iowa prompted by rapid increases in diagnoses

Provisional data from 2022 indicate continued increases in syphilis diagnoses across Iowa. Although syphilis transmission is increasing in most areas of Iowa, the rate of increase in northwest Iowa has been particularly alarming. As a result, the Iowa HHS, in partnership with the Siouxland District Health Department, released a recommendation for providers in Woodbury County to offer syphilis testing on an opt-out basis for sexually active individuals. A letter was distributed to health professionals in the area. Since the letter was written, provisional data indicate an even greater increase than originally noted, with over 100 cases of infectious syphilis occurring in Woodbury County in 2022.

Statewide, 2022 data indicate 615 cases of infectious syphilis. That will likely increase as data are finalized. Furthermore, a wider variety of populations in the state are acquiring the infection. Health professionals throughout the state are strongly encouraged to be vigilant for syphilis among their patient populations and order serology testing, as indicated. Syphilis is known as a "great imitator" and its signs or symptoms can easily be confused with other conditions or overlooked altogether if they are mild. Syphilis can be cured with intramuscular injections of Bicillin L-A. Early treatment leads to improved outcomes and reduced transmission.

To view the letter, visit drive.google.com/file/d/1sX0Nhyi1qEjkj989G2xjdutM6s-qkjiM/view.

For more information about syphilis, visit www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/default.htm.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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