

Epi Update for Friday, February 3, 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

- **Mpox public health emergency ends**
- **Outbreak of extensively drug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* associated with artificial tears**
- **Two cases of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* with reduced susceptibility detected in Massachusetts**
- **Infographic: Tooth decay**

Mpox public health emergency ends

The national mpox emergency declaration expired on January 31. The expiration of the emergency declaration will have no impact on the vaccine ordering and vaccine administration process. Local public health partners will continue to notify the Iowa Immunization Program when additional vaccine doses are needed. EUA declarations are also not impacted. Jynneos can continue to be administered intradermally and be given to persons under 18 years for the prevention of mpox.

The Iowa HHS mpox email will remain available to respond to questions, at monkeypoxvaccine@idph.iowa.gov.

Outbreak of extensively drug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* associated with artificial tears

On February 2, CDC issued a Health Advisory about infections with an extensively drug-resistant strain of Verona Integron-mediated Metallo- β -lactamase (VIM) and Guiana-Extended Spectrum- β -Lactamase (GES)-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (VIM-GES-CRPA) in 12 states (CA, CO, CT, FL, NJ, NM, NY, NV, TX, UT, WA, WI).

To date, no cases have been identified in Iowa.

Most patients reported using artificial tears. Patient outcomes include permanent vision loss resulting from cornea infection, hospitalization, and one death due to systemic infection. The majority of patients who used artificial tears reported using EzriCare Artificial Tears, a preservative-free, over-the-counter product packaged in multidose bottles. CDC testing identified the presence of the outbreak strain in opened EzriCare bottles with different lot numbers collected from two states.

CDC recommends the following for health care providers:

- Immediately discontinue using EzriCare Artificial Tears pending further guidance from CDC and FDA.
- Advise patients who used EzriCare Artificial Tears to monitor for signs and symptoms of infection. Perform culture and antimicrobial susceptibility testing when clinically indicated.
- Health care providers treating patients for keratitis or endophthalmitis should ask patients if they have used EzriCare Artificial Tears. Providers should consider performing culture and antimicrobial susceptibility testing to help guide therapy if patients report use of this product.
- At this time, CDC does not recommend testing patients who have used this product and who are not experiencing any signs or symptoms of infection.
- Health care providers in Iowa treating a patient with suspected or confirmed VIM-GES-CRPA infections should report the case to CADE at 515-242-5935.

To view the complete CDC HAN, including antibiotic susceptibility information and infection prevention and control recommendations, visit <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00485.asp>.

Two cases of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* with reduced susceptibility detected in Massachusetts

CDC has released information regarding two isolates of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* that have concerning antimicrobial susceptibility results. This is the first time patterns like these have been detected in the U.S. This heightens concerns about the ability of *N. gonorrhoeae* to continually develop antimicrobial resistance. Treatment options are already limited.

Although resistance patterns such as these have not been detected in Iowa or elsewhere in the U.S., health care providers are encouraged to be vigilant for indications of possible treatment failure. Re-infection with gonorrhea remains common, so it is important to ascertain whether patients presenting with recurrent positive test results or signs/symptoms have potentially been re-exposed by untreated sex partners. In addition to testing, all sex partners within the past 60 days should be presumptively treated for gonorrhea, regardless of test results.

Furthermore, patients and their partners should be treated in accordance with the latest treatment guidelines from CDC. Currently, the recommended treatment for gonorrhea is 500mg ceftriaxone by intramuscular injection. Utilizing the latest treatment guidelines and presumptively treating partners will delay antimicrobial resistance in our communities.

For more information about gonorrhea treatment, visit www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/gonorrhea.htm.

Infographic: Tooth decay

Tooth Decay

How Tooth Decay Happens

Three things are needed for tooth decay to occur - a tooth, carbohydrates (sweets and starches), and bacteria (germs). Bacteria in the mouth use sweet and starchy foods and drinks to make acid. After repeated acid attacks, the tooth enamel can break down, and a hole or cavity forms in the tooth.

As soon as a baby's first teeth appear - usually by age 6 months - a child is at risk for tooth decay. Tooth decay can cause difficulty with eating, sleeping, and speaking. It can also affect a child's ability to do well in school or an adult's ability to work.

The Decay Equation

Carbohydrates + Plaque/Bacteria → Acid

Acid + Tooth → Tooth Decay

Preventing Tooth Decay

Use of a baby bottle or sippy cup

- A naptime or bedtime bottle should only be filled with water.
- Juice and other sugary liquids - like chocolate milk, soda pop, Karo syrup, or sports drinks - should not be put in a baby's bottle. Encourage drinking from a cup by age 1.
- A sippy cup used between meals, at naptime, or at bedtime should only be filled with water.

Between-meal snacks

- Sweet and starchy foods should be limited to mealtime.
- Sticky foods - like dried fruit, chewy candy, potato chips, and crackers - stick to teeth and increase acid attacks.
- Hard candy, breath mints, and cough drops also stay in the mouth a long time and cause repeated acid attacks. Use sugarless products if possible.
- Choose snacks that help prevent cavities, such as cheese, yogurt, and milk - or make other healthy choices like fresh fruits and vegetables.

Soda pop and other beverages with sugar

- Limit soda pop and other sugary drinks - like sports drinks, fruit juice, and lemonade. Sipping on these drinks throughout the day can cause repeated acid attacks.
- Choose beverages like water, coffee, tea, and sugar-free noncarbonated drinks.
- Drink 6 to 8 glasses of fluoridated water every day.

Daily home care

- Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.
- Floss at least once a day, especially at bedtime.
- After brushing and flossing at night, do not eat or drink anything except water.

To view in full size, visit

https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/portals/1/userfiles/34/ohc_resources/tooth_decay.pdf.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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