

EPI Update for Friday November 3, 2006
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Influenza educational materials**
- **National *Salmonella typhimurim* outbreak**
- **Update on rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin center information**
- **Indiana human rabies case**
- **Departure message from IDPH State Public Health Veterinarian Susan Brockus**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Need it? Want it? Get it! Influenza educational materials

Need a fact sheet on influenza? Looking for posters and fact sheets to motivate others to get vaccinated for influenza? Whether you are a health care provider, business or other entity, we have something for you! Our influenza Web site is once again available to provide detailed, audience-specific materials in many different types and formats. The site address is www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/flu.asp. There are five primary Web pages, one for each of the following audience groups:

- General public
- Health care providers
- Educational institutions, child care and businesses
- Local public health
- What's New (information for the media)

In addition, these pages link to the most recent influenza surveillance reports. The direct link to surveillance information is www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/iisn.asp.

National *Salmonella typhimurim* outbreak

This week another multi-state foodborne outbreak has gotten media attention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with state health departments and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is investigating an outbreak of infections caused by a type of *Salmonella* called *Salmonella typhimurium*. *Salmonella typhimurium* typically causes an illness with fever and non-bloody diarrhea which commonly resolves after about one week.

PulseNet, the network of public health laboratories that performs molecular subtyping ("DNA fingerprinting") on bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses, has identified a specific strain of *Salmonella typhimurium* that has caused this outbreak. Cases caused by the specific strain have been detected regularly at low frequency (average, 86 cases per year) for the past 5 years, indicating the presence of this strain at low levels in the

environment and the food chain. The outbreak has involved 171 cases of infection by this strain in 19 states reported since September 1, 2006.

As of Nov. 2, Iowa does **not** have any *Salmonella* cases matching this outbreak. The median age of patients is 36 years, and 59 percent are female. Of 73 patients for whom clinical data has been reported, 14 (19 percent) were hospitalized; there have been no deaths reported. At this time few new cases are being detected, and there is little evidence of continuing risk to the public. Public health officials are working to identify the specific contaminated food or foods that caused this outbreak. Speculation is that it may be some type of contaminated produce. For more information on Salmonella can be found on CDC's Web site at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/salmonellosis_g.htm.

Update on rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin center information

One of northwest Iowa's hospitals, previously on the list as a site for regional rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin, will no longer be a regional site. Please see www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/surveillance_manual.asp and click on the rabies section for additional information. Pages 11 and 12 reflect this change.

Indiana girl dies of rabies – second human case in U.S. for 2006

On Oct. 17, another human case of rabies was reported in the United States. This brings the number of human rabies cases in the U.S. this year to two. This most recent case was a 10-year-old girl from northern Indiana who was bitten by a bat this summer. Indiana state health officials stated this is the first human case of rabies in Indiana since 1959.

The girl was hospitalized in early October and despite early diagnosis and treatment, passed away on Nov. 2. The girl's family, friends, and classmates have been interviewed by Indiana state health officials and recommendations for administration of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis have been made based on national criteria for exposure and consultation with the CDC in Atlanta, GA.

IDPH is available for consultation for rabies exposure assessment and post-exposure prophylaxis recommendations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During normal business hours, Monday through Friday, contact the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at 515-242-5935. After hours consultation is available by calling 800-362-2736 for referral to the on-duty officer. Determination and assessment of human rabies exposure and the need for rabies post exposure prophylaxis are based on national guidelines established in the [CDC MMWR, "Human Rabies Prevention - 1999: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices."](#)

IDPH has two rabies exposure assessment flow charts available: one for "all animals" (www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies_exposure_all_animals.pdf) and one specifically for bats (www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies_exposure_bats.pdf).

Departing message from Susan Brockus, IDPH state public health veterinarian

It is with mixed emotions that I am announcing my resignation as state public health veterinarian from IDPH effective Nov. 9. In late 2005, my husband (Charles Brockus, DVM, ACVIM, ACVP - formerly assistant professor in clinical pathology at ISU-CVM) and I decided he needed to pursue a new direction with his career. Fortunately, he has been successful with this venture and accepted a position in the Reno / Sparks area of Nevada and relocated in May. Obviously this situation required that at some point (i.e. once our home here in Iowa sold) I would also relocate to Nevada. Despite the flat real estate market, our home did sell and I will now be on my way.

My time here at IDPH as state public health veterinarian has been the highlight of my career. I have truly enjoyed working with all the wonderful people at IDPH and local public health, in addition to the relationships and collaboration with others at agencies such as IDALS, IHLSEM, USDA, NASPHV, and many others. I consider IDPH to be at the forefront of public health, and preparedness and response. I am truly honored to have been a part of some of the many great achievements accomplished by IDPH during these past 2 years and 10 months - what a great team.

My sincere thanks to everyone for all your support and understanding during this time of transition for my husband and me. I wish everyone well as I begin a new chapter in my life in Reno, NV.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Teleconference for health care providers

Nov. 9, 2006, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. - “Seasonal Influenza, Antivirals and *Clostridium difficile*” (A call in telephone number will be provided following receipt of registration form)

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For a registration form, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/grandround_2006_registration.pdf.

Have a healthy and happy week!
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
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800-362-2736