

Epi Update for Friday, March 10, 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

- **CDC: Increased chikungunya activity in Paraguay, risk to travelers**
- **2022 immunization data and reports**
- **In the news: All adults should be screened for hepatitis B at least once, CDC says**
- **Infographic: What is shingles?**

CDC: Increased chikungunya activity in Paraguay, risk to travelers

CDC has issued a Health Advisory regarding an increase in cases of chikungunya reported in Paraguay. Most cases have been reported in the capital district of Asunción and the neighboring Central department. As of February 24, 71,478 suspect chikungunya cases have been reported in Paraguay, with 29,362 of those being probable or confirmed cases since the outbreak began in October 2022. Further spread of the outbreak in Paraguay and to surrounding countries is possible.

Health care providers should

- consider chikungunya virus infection in travelers returning from Paraguay and surrounding countries with acute onset of fever and polyarthralgia.
- rule out dengue virus infection in travelers with suspect chikungunya virus infection, as these viruses often cocirculate and have similar clinical presentations during acute illness. Early clinical management of dengue can improve patient outcome.
- be aware that people at risk for more severe disease include neonates exposed intrapartum, older adults, and people with underlying medical conditions.
- educate travelers to Paraguay and surrounding areas about chikungunya and dengue and how to prevent mosquito-borne infections.

To view the full CDC Health Advisory, visit emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00487.asp.

2022 Immunization Data and Reports

The Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal has been updated to include 2022 immunization coverage for childhood immunizations, adolescent immunizations, HPV vaccine, and adult immunizations. School audit data for the 2022-2023 school year has also been updated.

Data summaries to support the most current information on the portal can be found on both the *Immunization Program Data and Reports* and the *Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal About Immunization Data* pages under the *Portal Data Summaries* section. The summaries contain immunization data visuals and trends with an accompanying narrative and key messages.

The *2022-2023 School Audit Report* is now available and can be found on the *Immunization - School & Child Care Audits* page. The *2022-2023 Child Care Audit Report* will be available in May.

The Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal also houses ongoing weekly 2022-2023 influenza vaccine season reporting, as well as ongoing monthly COVID-19 vaccine data reporting.

If you have questions, contact the Iowa HHS Immunization Program at 1-800-831-6293.

For this data and more, visit the *Immunization in Iowa* page on the Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal at tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization.

In the news: All adults should be screened for hepatitis B at least once, CDC says
www.cnn.com/2023/03/10/health/hepatitis-b-screening-cdc-wellness/index.html

Infographic: What is shingles?

What is Shingles?

Shingles is a viral infection caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. It causes a painful rash or blisters on one side of the body. The risk of developing shingles increases with age and is more common in people over 50.

Approximately **1 IN 3 AMERICANS** will develop shingles in their lifetime.

Shingles is more common in **PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 50**, with half of all cases occurring in **PEOPLE OVER 60**.

SHINGLES is a **painful skin rash, often with blisters.**

Other symptoms can include,

- UPSET STOMACH
- FEVER
- CHILLS
- HEADACHE

About 1 in 10 people who get shingles develop **NERVE PAIN** that last for months or years after the rash goes away.

The best way to prevent shingles is to get vaccinated and maintain a healthy immune system through a balanced diet, exercise, and stress management.

Public Health
IOWA HHS

To view in full size, visit content.govdelivery.com/attachments/IACIO/2023/03/07/file_attachments/2430142/Immunization_ShinglesInfographic_v2.pdf.

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
800-362-2736

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