

## Epi Update for Friday, April 7, 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 monitoring Marburg outbreaks in Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania**
- **Help Iowa HHS and SHL make respiratory surveillance data even better**
- ***Salmonella* and Easter chicks**
- **National Public Health Week**
- **Infographic: Always wash your hands after handling live poultry**

### **CDC monitoring Marburg outbreaks in Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania**

CDC has issued a HAN message describing two confirmed outbreaks of Marburg virus disease (MVD) - one in Equatorial Guinea and one in Tanzania. There is no evidence to suggest the two outbreaks are related. No confirmed cases of MVD related to these outbreaks have been reported in the U.S. or outside Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania. The risk of MVD in Iowa is very low.

CDC is sending text messages to travelers who had been in Equatorial Guinea or Tanzania and are arriving in the U.S. explaining what symptoms they should watch for and to contact their local health department or their doctor if they develop symptoms within 21 days.

MVD should be included as a differential diagnosis for an ill person with history of a concerning exposure while in a MVD affected area (e.g., contact with a symptomatic person with suspected or confirmed MVD or an unknown illness; attending/participating in a funeral; visiting or working in a health care facility; having contact with bats or non-human primates; working or spending time in a mine/cave) within 21 days before symptom onset and who have clinical symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, or unexplained bleeding. Alternative diagnoses such as malaria, COVID-19, influenza, or common causes of gastrointestinal and febrile illnesses should be considered.

Health care providers who suspect a patient may have Marburg should contact CADE immediately at 515-242-5935 or 515-323-4360 after hours.

To view the full CDC HAN, visit [emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00489.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00489.asp).

### **Help Iowa HHS and SHL make respiratory surveillance data even better**

Thank you to all of the Iowa laboratories currently reporting respiratory virus testing totals on the Iowa respiratory survey each week. An average of almost 5,600 influenza tests and over 6,700 COVID test results are reported each week.

As we have transitioned to a new COVID-19 respiratory surveillance model, Iowa HHS is looking for laboratories in the southwest and southeast parts of the state to join the surveillance program. Contact Kris Eveland at SHL at (319) 335-4279 or [Kristofer-eveland@uiowa.edu](mailto:Kristofer-eveland@uiowa.edu) if your facility is interesting in participating.

## Salmonella and Easter chicks

*Salmonella* is among the most commonly-reported causes of foodborne illness and outbreaks in Iowa. These bacteria can also be spread by direct contact with animals, especially reptiles and birds. Contact with baby chicks is a known risk factor for *Salmonella* and tends to increase around Easter.

Follow these steps to reduce the risk of *Salmonella* from handling live birds:

- Children less than 5 years of age or others at high risk shouldn't handle poultry or items contaminated by poultry.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling poultry or their droppings.
- Don't kiss or snuggle poultry and then touch your face or mouth.
- Do not let poultry live inside your home.
- Do not wash the bird's food and water dishes in the kitchen sink.

For more information about how to handle birds safely, visit, [www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/farm-animals/backyard-poultry.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/farm-animals/backyard-poultry.html).

## National Public Health Week

April 3-9 is the American Public Health Association's Public Health Week. This year's theme is *Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health*. Daily themes include Community (Monday), Violence Prevention (Tuesday), Reproductive and Sexual Health (Wednesday), Mental Health (Thursday), Rural Health (Friday), Accessibility (Saturday), and Food and Nutrition (Sunday). A dedicated web page is available for each daily theme with a wealth of resources focusing on science, action, health, and celebration.

For more information about Public Health Week, visit [nphw.org](http://nphw.org).

## Infographic: Always wash your hands after handling live poultry



To view in full size, visit [www.cdc.gov/healthypets/images/Poultry-Handwashing-Sticker\\_1200x600.jpg](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/images/Poultry-Handwashing-Sticker_1200x600.jpg).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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