

Epi Update for Monday, May 1, 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

- Immunization recommendations during floods
- Traveling internationally? Check CDC for current health issues, guidelines by destination.
- In the news: Hawaii Department of Health announces second O'ahu measles case
- In the news: Measles outbreak in American Samoa declared public health emergency
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Immunization recommendations during floods

Increases in cases of tetanus and hepatitis have not been associated with flooding. However, floods serve as a good reminder for individuals to check their immunization record. Tetanus and hepatitis immunizations are part of the routinely recommended vaccine schedules for children and adults.

People are at risk for tetanus infection when they are injured and have wounds that are contaminated by the environment. Flooding is not shown to increase the risk for tetanus disease. However, cleaning up after a flood may increase the risk of getting a wound. Any time an individual receives a wound, they need to ask their health care provider if a tetanus-containing vaccine is needed.

- Adults should receive a booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria-containing vaccine every 10 years. Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine is routinely recommended as it also protects against whooping cough, which causes illness every year in Iowa.
- Children need a basic series of four doses of vaccine between 2 and 18 months of age, as well as booster doses at 4 to 6 years and 11 to 12 years of age.

Hepatitis immunizations are recommended for some people based on age, behavioral, occupational, medical and other risk factors. Hepatitis risk is not increased due to exposure to flood waters.

Individuals should contact their health care provider to discuss the need for vaccination. For additional questions, contact your local health department or the Iowa HHS Immunization Program at 1-800-831-6293, or visit the Program webpage at idph.iowa.gov/immmtb/immunization.

Traveling internationally? Check CDC for current health issues, guidelines by destination.

CDC's Travelers' Health page provides a wealth of information about how to stay safe when travelling internationally. Simply select the country you are travelling to and review travel health notices, vaccine and prophylaxis guidelines, and more recommendations specific to that country. Make sure to check well in advance of your trip, as well as closer to your departure, as conditions can change quickly.

To view the CDC Traveler's Health page, visit wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel.

In the news: Hawaii Department of Health announces second O'ahu measles case

governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/doh-news-release-department-of-health-announces-second-oahu-measles-case/

In the news: Measles outbreak in American Samoa declared public health emergency

abcnews.go.com/Health/measles-outbreak-american-samoa-declared-public-health-emergency/story?id=98826831

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Respiratory protection is imperative for protecting employees from potential hazards encountered in any health care setting, such as bacteria, viruses, and chemicals that may be inhaled and cause injury or illness. Respirators and other personal protective equipment can reduce risk, but facilities must have clear policies and procedures in the form of a respiratory protection program (RPP). Join Iowa HHS on May 10 at 12:00 noon for a free webinar, *Developing an Effective Respiratory Protection Program*. The webinar will provide an overview of the necessary elements of a comprehensive RPP as required by OSHA Standard 1910.134 and will include identification and evaluation of respiratory hazards in the health care setting, respirator selection, and common questions regarding medical clearance, fit testing, and recordkeeping. Presenters will also unveil Iowa specific resources to help facilities create and operate their own RPP. One hour of continuing education credits are available. To register, visit ecri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Egq7-kRnRtaAICMUhy8bDg.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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