

Epi Update for Tuesday, May 30, 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 PPE reminder for health care providers**
- **Rabies: Bat exposure guidelines, testing options**
- **Summer influenza surveillance relies on specimen submissions to SHL**
- **Infographic: Rabies exposure management for bat-related incidents**

Mpox PPE reminder for health care providers

Health care providers should use PPE when evaluating a patient with suspected mpox. The patient should be placed in a single person room. Recommended PPE for health care providers includes gown, gloves, N95 mask, and eye protection. If specimens are collected, the patient should be educated to stay home and isolate from other people and animals pending test results. Standard cleaning and disinfection procedures should be performed using an EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant with an emerging viral pathogen claim.

SHL offers mpox PCR testing with no preapproval required. Iowa HHS and local public health partners follow-up on confirmed cases to make isolation and treatment recommendations and educate contacts about post-exposure prophylaxis, as needed.

For full infection control guidelines for mpox, visit www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/clinicians/infection-control-healthcare.html.

For test request forms and specimen guidelines for mpox testing at SHL, visit www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/menupages/mpox.xml.

Rabies: Bat exposure guidelines, testing options

The guidelines surrounding human/bat encounters can be complex, but Iowa HHS has several resources available to help determine if a potential exposure occurred. As a rule of thumb:

- Direct contact with a bat is considered an exposure, even if there is no known bite or lesions. This is because the teeth of a bat are very small – bites may go unnoticed and may not leave a visible mark.
- Individuals known to be in the same room as a bat but unable to say they had no contact with the bat are generally considered exposed. Common examples include small children, people who are sleeping, and those who are intoxicated.

Individuals who believe they may have been exposed to a bat should contact their health care provider to discuss rabies post-exposure prophylaxis, which is almost 100% effective if received timely and appropriately. Unfortunately, once symptoms of rabies develop it is nearly always fatal.

When a human is exposed to a bat or other animal, the bat or the brain from the animal can be sent to SHL for rabies testing, free of charge. If there is not a human exposure, SHL charges a \$25 fee. Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) in Ames also provides testing for a fee.

As always, CADE is available for consult regarding rabies exposures, testing, treatment, etc. at 515-242-5935 during business hours or 515-323-4360 outside of business hours.

For full guidance regarding human exposures to bats, visit idph.iowa.gov/rabies.

For more information about SHL rabies testing for animals that exposed humans, visit www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/rabiescollectioninstructions.pdf.

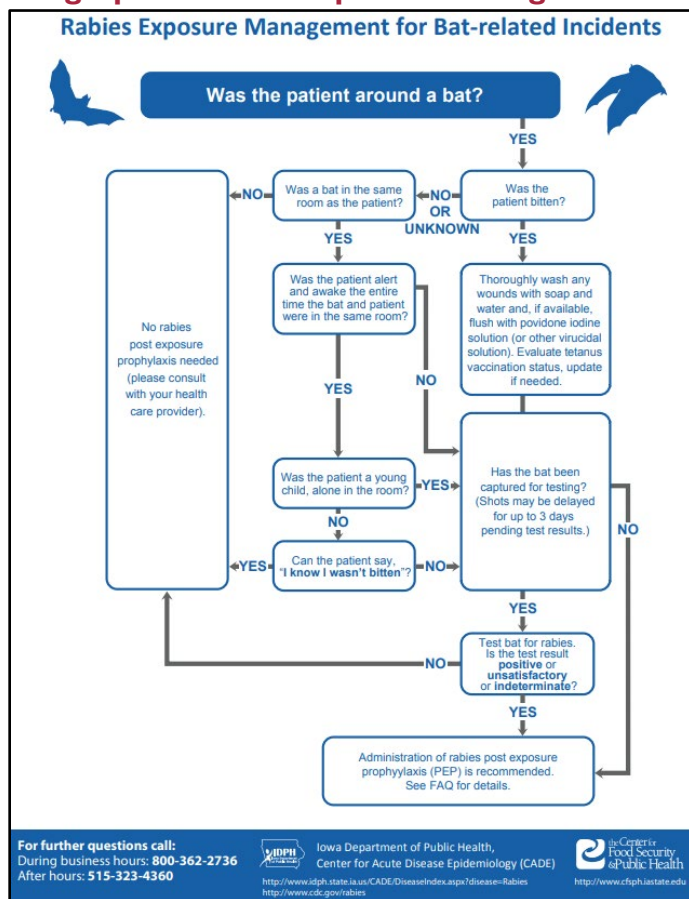
For more information about testing animals for rabies at VDL, visit vetmed.iastate.edu/vdl/submissions/guidelines/rabies.

Summer influenza surveillance relies on specimen submissions to SHL

As the 2022-2023 influenza season comes to a close, Iowa HHS and SHL request that during the summer months clinical laboratories submit positive influenza samples to SHL for subtyping and further characterization. These specimens are critical for ongoing surveillance and to help identify emerging influenza strains.

For more information about influenza surveillance in Iowa, visit hhs.iowa.gov/influenza.

Infographic: Rabies exposure management for bat-related incidents



To view in full size, visit hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/portals/1/files/rabies/bat_rabies_chart_130618.pdf.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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