

Epi Update for Friday, June 2, 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

- **C. auris in health care settings, upcoming educational webinar**
- **Update: Fungal meningitis outbreak in U.S. patients linked to surgical procedures in Mexico**
- **HIV surveillance reports released**
- **Infographic: C. auris cases in the U.S., 2022**

C. auris in health care settings, upcoming educational webinar

Candida auris is an emerging drug-resistant fungus. In the U.S., most cases result from spread within and among health care facilities in the same city or state. Since 2019, CDC has noted increased *C. auris* transmission, including large outbreaks with increasing resistance patterns, with 8,131 cases detected in the U.S. in 2022.

C. auris spreads easily in health care facilities through direct contact with infected or colonized patients and contaminated surfaces or equipment. Most people who get serious infections have weakened immune systems or received medical care involving breathing or feeding tubes, central venous catheters, etc. In these persons, *C. auris* can cause serious infections, such as bloodstream infections. Healthy people usually do not get *C. auris* infections.

As with any germ, hand hygiene is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of *C. auris*. Perform hand hygiene before and after visiting someone in a health care facility. Health care facilities can also follow key recommendations to prevent patient-to-patient spread within facilities.

Iowa HHS is hosting a free *C. auris* webinar on June 14, from Noon - 1 PM. Continuing education credits are available. To register, visit https://ecri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qe4l6T3STcq4HJrzvbgx7w#/registration.

For more information about *C. auris*, visit www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/index.html.

Update: Fungal meningitis outbreak in U.S. patients linked to surgical procedures in Mexico

CDC has issued a HAN advisory regarding an ongoing multistate outbreak of fungal meningitis among patients who underwent procedures under epidural anesthesia in the city of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, at two clinics: River Side Surgical Center and Clinica K-3. A total of 212 residents in 25 states have been identified who might be at risk. Among these patients, 14 suspected, 11 probable, and two confirmed cases have been diagnosed; three patients have died. Iowa HHS has not been notified of any exposed Iowans.

All patients, including those without symptoms, who underwent medical or surgical procedures under epidural anesthesia at River Side Surgical Center or Clinica K-3 in Matamoros, Mexico, since January 1, 2023, should be evaluated for fungal meningitis as soon as possible. Evaluation includes a lumbar puncture (LP, also known as spinal tap) and MRI of the brain.

To view the full HAN advisory, including interim recommendations for diagnosis and treatment, visit emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00492.asp.

HIV surveillance reports released

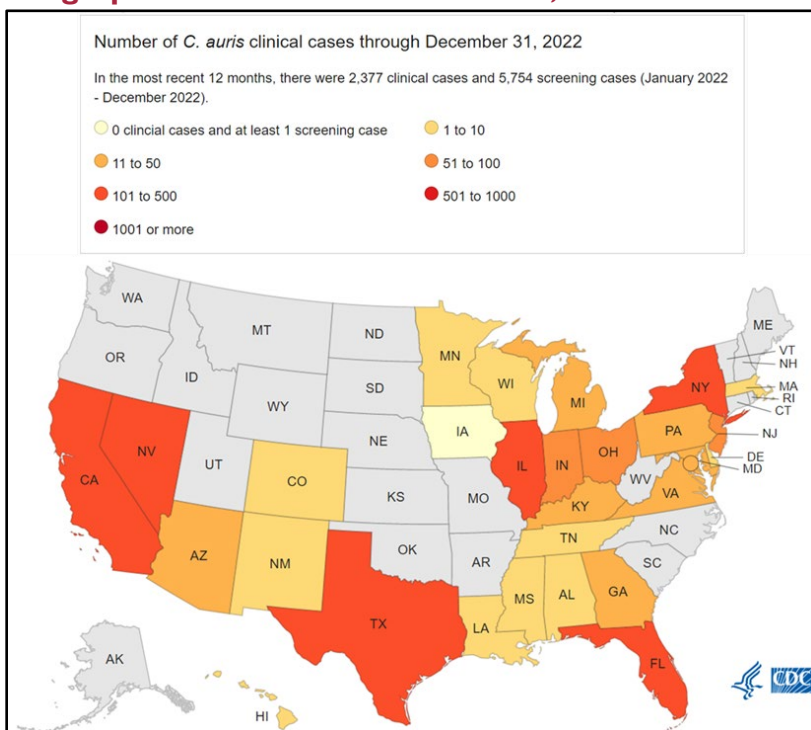
Last week, CDC released multiple HIV surveillance reports. The first report, *Estimated HIV Incidence and Prevalence in the United States, 2017–2021*, shows the estimated number of new HIV infections fell 12% from 2017 to 2021. New infections fell from 36,500 in 2017 to 32,100 in 2021. The decrease was most significant among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men who were 13 to 24 years of age, with a 34% decline in new infections.

The second report, *Monitoring Selected National HIV Prevention and Care Objectives by Using HIV Surveillance Data, United States and 6 Dependent Areas, 2021*, contains some great news for Iowa. Iowa continues to lead the nation in viral suppression among those diagnosed and living with HIV. Nearly 82% of people diagnosed and living with HIV in Iowa achieved viral suppression in 2021 (see Figure 11 in the report), a new high for any state. This compares to only 66% of people diagnosed and living with HIV nationally. Only two states, Montana and Iowa, exceeded 80%. Iowa's strong system of care for people with HIV continues to improve and demonstrate its effectiveness at helping people with HIV stay healthy.

The final report, *Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2021*, shows that while estimated infections (i.e., transmissions) decreased in 2021, diagnoses increased by 18% nationally. This is likely related to the decrease in diagnoses in 2020 associated with reduced testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than half of all diagnoses in 2021 occurred in the South, compared to 13% in the Midwest, 20% in the West, and 14% in the Northeast.

To view the above HIV surveillance reports in full, visit www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html.

Infographic: *C. auris* cases in the U.S., 2022



To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/tracking-c-auris.html.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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