

# Epi Update for Friday, November 3, 2023

CENTER FOR ACUTE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (CADE)  
BUREAU OF HIV, STI, AND HEPATITIS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Items for this week's Epi Update include

- **Legionella testing options, recommendations**
- **FDA Advisory: Fruit puree pouches, elevated levels of lead**
- **In the news: Illinois reports measles case identified in Cook County**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

## **Legionella testing options, recommendations**

Health care providers should consider legionellosis in patients presenting with cough, fever, and pneumonia, especially in those with a history of overnight travel, immune suppression, or health care visits within the two weeks before symptom onset.

CDC recommended tests for diagnosing legionellosis associated with lower respiratory illness are BOTH a culture of a lower respiratory specimen on selective media AND the *Legionella* urinary antigen test. The urine antigen test produces a quick result, but it only detects *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup I. Therefore, a patient with a negative urinary antigen test may still have Legionnaires' disease caused by a different *Legionella* species or serogroup. Diagnostic testing by culture can detect multiple species and serogroups, allows for comparison of clinical and environmental isolates to identify possible sources of infection, and provides valuable epidemiological information to aid potential outbreak investigations.

SHL can perform *Legionella* culture and PCR testing from clinical specimens and environmental sources. Ideally, respiratory specimens should be collected before antibiotic administration, but antibiotic treatment should not be delayed and testing may still be valuable after starting antibiotics. Remember to report all positive *Legionella* laboratory results to Iowa HHS.

Contact SHL at 319-335-4500 if you are interested in submitting a specimen for *Legionella* culture and/or PCR, or visit the following SHL links for collection and submission instructions:

- Culture: [www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/menupages/legionella.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/menupages/legionella.xml)
- PCR: [www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/menupages/legionellapcr.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/menupages/legionellapcr.xml)

For more information about legionellosis, visit [www.cdc.gov/legionella/downloads/fs-legionella-clinicians.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/legionella/downloads/fs-legionella-clinicians.pdf).

## **FDA Advisory: Fruit puree pouches, elevated levels of lead**

FDA is advising parents and caregivers not to buy or feed WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches to children because the product may contain elevated levels of lead. Parents and caregivers of toddlers and young children who may have consumed WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches should contact their child's healthcare provider about getting a blood test.

FDA is continuing to work with state officials and the firm, collecting additional information, and taking steps to remove all contaminated product from the market.



For more information about this FDA advisory, visit [www.fda.gov/food/alerts-advisories-safety-information/fda-advises-parents-and-caregivers-not-buy-or-feed-wanabana-apple-cinnamon-fruit-puree-pouches](http://www.fda.gov/food/alerts-advisories-safety-information/fda-advises-parents-and-caregivers-not-buy-or-feed-wanabana-apple-cinnamon-fruit-puree-pouches).

### In the news: Illinois reports measles case identified in Cook County

[dph.illinois.gov/resource-center/news/2023/october/idph-reports-measles-case-identified-in-cook-county.html](http://dph.illinois.gov/resource-center/news/2023/october/idph-reports-measles-case-identified-in-cook-county.html)

### Meeting announcements and training opportunities

The prevalence of animals in patient care areas of health care settings is becoming more frequent in hospitals, physician offices, rehabilitation centers, and long-term care facilities. When animals are present in health care settings, there is the potential for germs to spread between animals and people, demonstrating the need to have appropriate protocols and policies in place to protect patients, residents, and staff from the potential risk of infection. Join Iowa HHS for a free webinar, *A Dog Walks into a Hospital: Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Animal Visitations* on November 8 at 12 noon. To register, visit

[ecri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jCq7Z6QdTwwXj7NMIYkh\\_A#/registration](http://ecri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jCq7Z6QdTwwXj7NMIYkh_A#/registration).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology  
800-362-2736

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