

Epi Update for Tuesday, November 14, 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

- **Suspect a patient has measles? Contact CADE immediately, 24/7**
- **Antibiotic Awareness Week (November 18 - 24)**
- **In the news: US CDC to expand surveillance of traveler samples for respiratory viruses**
- **In the news: Antibiotics that fight deadly infections in babies are losing their power**

Suspect a patient has measles? Contact CADE immediately, 24/7

Measles is characterized by a prodrome of fever (may spike to more than 104°F), cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis (the three "C"s), followed by a maculopapular rash that spreads from the head to the trunk to the lower extremities. Health care providers should consider measles in patients presenting with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible measles symptoms, especially if the person recently traveled internationally, or was exposed to a person with febrile rash illness.

Health care providers who suspect a patient may have measles should immediately contact CADE while the patient is still at the health care facility. Public health can help coordinate specimen collection, transport, and testing at Iowa's State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) with a faster turnaround time than reference laboratories. This aids in prompt diagnosis of the patient and allows for a timely public health response, if necessary.

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

For more information about measles, visit hhs.iowa.gov/cade/disease-information/measles.

Antibiotic Awareness Week (November 18 - 24)

Antibiotics save lives but are becoming less effective. CDC urges health care professionals to prescribe antibiotics only when necessary to help fight antimicrobial resistance, curb the spread of superbugs, and protect patients from antibiotic-related adverse drug events.

CDC coordinates U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week (USAAW) every November. For the 2023 USAAW, CDC and Iowa HHS are increasing messaging and education efforts to improve antibiotic stewardship in Iowa.

As part of this outreach, and to promote judicious use of antibiotics in the long-term care setting, Iowa HHS is hosting two FREE webinars in November. Registration is open for both webinars.

- *Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) Management in Nursing Home Residents* (November 16 @ 12 noon, www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_G6faWFIZRrWp_iA3M3P4cA#/registration)
- *Appropriate Antibiotic Therapy for Common Infections in Nursing Home Residents* (November 28 @ 12 noon, www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_k_SowBsgREWC0HW4wrG0FQ#/registration)

CDC and Iowa HHS will also be releasing messaging promoting antibiotic stewardship November 18 - 24. If you or your agency would like to follow along, repost messaging, or create your own messaging, CDC is using the following national hashtags:

- #BeAntibioticsAware
- #USAAW23
- #AntibioticResistance
- #PurpleForAR
- #ABXequity
- #HCP
- #pharmacist

An Iowa-centric hashtag (#DrugsforGermsIA23) has also been created to link any unique messaging created by Iowa partners.

In the news: US CDC to expand surveillance of traveler samples for respiratory viruses

www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-cdc-expand-surveillance-travelers-respiratory-viruses-2023-11-06/

In the news: Antibiotics that fight deadly infections in babies are losing their power

www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2023/11/07/1209109088/antibiotics-that-fight-deadly-infections-in-babies-are-losing-their-power

Have a healthy and happy week!

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