

Epi Update for Monday, April 1, 2024

CENTER FOR ACUTE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (CADE)

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Items for this week's Epi Update include

- Update on mpox in Democratic Republic of Congo
- National Public Health Week: April 1 - 7
- In the news: U.S. measles cases this year have already surpassed the 2023 total
- Infographic: Basic Disaster Supplies Kit
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Update on mpox in Democratic Republic of Congo

Transmission of clade I mpox continues in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as the largest outbreak in the country's history remains ongoing. Clade I mpox is considered to be more transmissible and can cause more severe infection than clade IIb, the clade linked to the U.S. outbreak that began in 2022. People in the U.S. who have already had mpox or are fully vaccinated should be protected against mpox. Casual contact, such as might occur during travel, is not likely to cause the disease to spread.

To date, no transmission of clade I has been noted outside of central Africa. While new clade IIb mpox cases continue to be identified in the U.S., there are no clade I cases in the U.S. at this time.

CDC has notified Iowa HHS that Iowa is among the top ten states for the DRC diaspora. Health care providers should continue to contact CADE at 515-242-5935 if they suspect mpox in a patient with recent travel to DRC or a patient who has been in close contact with someone with consistent symptoms and travel to DRC.

Health care providers who suspect mpox in a patient without a connection to DRC can continue to utilize PCR testing at SHL with no preapproval required.

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

For more information about mpox, including cases in the U.S. and detailed information about mpox in DRC, visit www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html.

National Public Health Week: April 1 - 7

National Public Health Week 2024 will take place April 1 - 7. This year's theme is *Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health*. Daily themes range from *Healthy Neighborhoods* to *Emergency Preparedness* and more. The American Public Health Association (APHA) will be hosting free live events throughout the week (registration is required).

For more information about National Public Health Week, including fact sheets, shareable resources, a schedule of events and more, visit nphw.org.

In the news: U.S. measles cases this year have already surpassed the 2023 total
www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/us-measles-cases-2024-so-far-rcna145013

Infographic: Basic Disaster Supplies Kit



Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- Water and non-perishable food for several days**
- Extra cell phone battery or charger**
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries**
- Flashlight and extra batteries**
- First aid kit**
- Whistle to signal for help**
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place**
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation**
- Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities**
- Can opener (if kit contains canned food)**
- Local maps**

FEMA's Ready Campaign educates and empowers Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies, including those from natural hazards and man-made disasters. Ready asks individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and appropriate responses. Everyone should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive several days if an emergency occurs. This list of emergency supply kit items is only a starting point. It is important that individuals review this list and consider the unique needs of their family, including pets, for items to include. Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.



Ready



FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC 20472

To view in full size, visit www.ready.gov/kit.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Join the Iowa HHS Health Care Associated Infections (HAI) Program on Tuesday, April 30 at 12 noon for a free webinar, *Optimizing Dental Antibiotic Prophylaxis: Guideline Adherence and Patient Safety*. This course will explore current guidelines and best practices for prescribing prophylactic antibiotics, including the discontinuation of clindamycin and quinolones, with a focus on optimizing patient care and minimizing the risk of harm associated with antibiotic misuse. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of dental antibiotic prophylaxis, and leave with the knowledge, resources, and decision-making skills necessary to optimize patient care while minimizing the risks associated with antibiotic prescribing. At the conclusion of this webinar, participants should be better able to: identify current dental prophylactic prescribing guidelines, including discontinuation of clindamycin and quinolones, discuss potential harm to patients surrounding antibiotic prescribing that is discordant with guidelines, and review resources and clinical decision-making tools to help guide prophylactic antibiotic prescribing. Continuing education credits are available. To register, visit www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_0B3QgaN2TPKkCDJGH126xg#/registration.

Have a healthy and happy week!
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
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