

Epi Update for Friday, April 19, 2024

CENTER FOR ACUTE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (CADE)

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Items for this week's Epi Update include

- CDC notification of counterfeit “Botox” or mishandled botulinum toxin injections
- Multistate *Salmonella* outbreak linked to fresh basil
- Lab Week 2024 – Thank you laboratorians!
- Infographic: How to select a sunscreen
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

CDC notification of counterfeit “Botox” or mishandled botulinum toxin injections

On April 15, CDC, several state and local health departments, and FDA shared information regarding reports of harmful reactions among people who received injections of counterfeit or mishandled botulinum toxin (commonly called “Botox”). As of April 12, 19 people from nine states have reported harmful reactions after receiving botulinum toxin injections from unlicensed or untrained individuals or in non-health care settings, such as homes and spas. Botulinum toxin or “Botox” injections are typically regarded as safe therapy. However, administration with counterfeit product, improper technique, or incorrect dosage can result in botulism-like illness. Public health and regulatory officials have found that some people received injections with counterfeit products or products with unverified sources. Investigation into the products is ongoing.

Nine people were hospitalized and four were treated with botulism antitoxin because of concerns that the botulinum toxin could have spread beyond the injection site. All reports came from females, ranging in age from 25 to 59 years. Eighteen people reported receiving botulinum toxin injections for cosmetic purposes. There are currently no reports in Iowa.

What Should Healthcare Providers Do

- If your patient presents with symptoms consistent with botulism (blurry or double vision, drooping eyelids, difficulty swallowing, difficulty breathing, muscle weakness), ask the patient if they have recently had an injection of botulinum toxin for medical or cosmetic reasons (such as for wrinkles).
- If systemic botulism is suspected, immediately call CADE at (during business hours) 800-362-2736 or (after business hours) 515-323-4360 for consultation.
- Counsel patients who report using or being interested in using botulinum toxin about the risks of botulism and potential adverse events.
- Encourage patients to receive injections only from licensed providers who are trained in proper administration of FDA-approved botulinum toxin in a licensed or accredited health care setting.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/botulism/outbreaks/harmful-reactions-botox-injections.html.

Multistate *Salmonella* outbreak linked to fresh basil

CDC has issued a Food Safety Alert for Infinite Herbs brand organic basil, 2.5 oz clamshell-style containers sold at Trader Joe's stores in 29 states, including Iowa. The product has been pulled from stores, and is no longer available for purchase. Infinite Herbs is cooperating with FDA and has agreed to initiate a voluntarily recall. As of April 17, 12 illnesses and one hospitalization have been linked to the outbreak. No *Salmonella* cases linked to this outbreak have been identified in Iowa.

For more information about this recall, visit www.cdc.gov/salmonella/basil-04-24/index.html.

Lab Week 2024 – Thank you laboratorians!

April 14 - 20 is Lab Week 2024, when clinical and public health laboratory professionals are recognized nationally for safeguarding communities by strengthening diagnostic testing and improving patient care.

This year's theme, *The Future is Lab*, celebrates laboratory professionals for protecting our future by skillfully adapting to meet today's evolving patient care and public health challenges. One specific example is the measles testing response that is currently happening across the country. Working with clinical laboratories, Iowa's State Hygienic Laboratory rapidly responds and provides timely testing for Iowans when it is needed to make critical decisions.

For more on Lab Week 2024, visit www.ascp.org/content/get-involved/get-recognized/lab-week#.

Infographic: How to select a sunscreen

How to Select a SUNSCREEN

Choosing the right sunscreen can help reduce your risk of skin cancer and early skin aging caused by the sun.

Sunscreen is an important tool in the fight against skin cancer, including melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime.

The American Academy of Dermatology recommends choosing a sunscreen that says:

- Broad spectrum**
Means a sunscreen protects the skin from ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays, both of which can cause cancer.
- SPF 30 or Higher**
How well a sunscreen protects you from sunburn.
- Water resistant or very water resistant**
For up to 40 or 80 minutes. Sunscreens are not waterproof or sweatproof and need to be reapplied every two hours or after swimming or sweating.

One ounce of sunscreen, enough to fill a shot glass, is considered the amount needed to cover the exposed areas of the body.

Remember, sunscreen alone cannot fully protect you. In addition, seek shade and wear sun-protective clothing, including a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses, whenever possible.

To view in full size, visit

www.aad.org/public/everyday-care/sun-protection/shade-clothing-sunscreen/how-to-select-sunscreen.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Join the Iowa HHS Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Program on Wednesday, May 15, at 12:00 noon for a webinar, *The Application of Outpatient Antimicrobial Stewardship Principles to Commonly Encountered Pediatric Outpatient Infections*. Antibiotic stewardship is the organized effort to measure and improve how antibiotics are prescribed by clinicians and used by patients. Improving antibiotic prescribing in the outpatient setting involves implementing effective strategies to modify prescribing practices to align them with evidence-based recommendations for diagnosis and management. At the conclusion of this webinar, participants should be better able to explain the importance and principles of outpatient antimicrobial stewardship and apply them to commonly encountered outpatient infections in the pediatric population. Continuing education credits are available. To register, visit www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_c6JAYVcfSVGy4eSS6id5ew#/registration.

Have a healthy and happy week!
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
800-362-2736