

Epi Update for Friday, May 3, 2024

CENTER FOR ACUTE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (CADE)

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Items for this week's Epi Update include

- HIV transmission associated with platelet-rich plasma microneedling facials, New Mexico
- Pressure washer safety, recognition and treatment of high pressure injection injuries
- In the news: A new form of mpox that may spread more easily found in Congo's biggest outbreak
- Infographic: Clinicians can help prevent premature deaths in rural communities
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

HIV transmission associated with platelet-rich plasma microneedling facials, New Mexico

A recent CDC MMWR described likely HIV transmission associated with the receipt of platelet-rich plasma during microneedling facials at an unlicensed medical spa in New Mexico. Five people were confirmed with HIV, with three likely infected from the use of unsterile equipment during the cosmetic injection services. These are the first cases of HIV transmission identified from these types of cosmetic procedures in the US. HIV molecular sequencing was used to associate the cases in the cluster. Cases were diagnosed from 2018 to 2023, and other routes of transmission were eliminated. Nearly 200 spa patients and their partners were tested for HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C during the public health investigation.

Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) microneedling, sometimes called vampire facials, is a cosmetic procedure that involves drawing a patient's blood, separating the plasma from the cells, and injecting the PRP into the skin. The purpose is to rejuvenate the skin, even skin tone, or reduce the appearance of scarring, such as from acne. Medical spas that perform this service may also perform other injections, like Botox or dermal fillers.

The investigation demonstrated a novel mode of HIV transmission. In addition, it highlighted the need for proper infection control procedures at spa facilities and to receive injections from licensed providers who are trained in the proper administration of this procedure to prevent the transmission of HIV and other bloodborne pathogens.

To view the full MMWR, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7316a3.htm.

Pressure washer safety, recognition and treatment of high pressure injection injuries

As Iowa enters severe weather season, pressure injection injuries from use of pressure washers may increase as clean-up efforts take place. The seriousness of high pressure injection injuries may be underestimated. The wounds often appear benign, but these injuries can result in serious infection, disability, and amputation if not treated appropriately. The potential for serious injury should be considered with any device that produces greater than 100 pounds per square inch (PSI) of pressure.

Immediate recognition of high pressure injection injuries is crucial to successful management. Health care providers should thoroughly assess the wound (as they can appear very small and innocuous), assess neurovascular status, assess tendon function, and consider radiographing the injured area to check for presence of subcutaneous air or a foreign body. When treating pressure injection injuries, health care providers should administer tetanus vaccination or ensure that tetanus prophylaxis is up to date, administer antibiotics, refer to a surgeon for probable wound debridement, and avoid the use of digital blocks.

The public can help prevent pressure washing injuries by taking the following precautions:

- Never point a pressure washer at a person.
- Never attempt to push or move objects with spray from the washer.
- Never use a gasoline powered washer in an enclosed space.
- Always test the ground fault circuit interrupter (circuit breaker or outlet) before using a pressure washer.
- Always plug a properly grounded pressure washer into a properly grounded receptacle.
- Keep the pressure washer's power cord connection out of any standing water, and use a heavy-duty extension cord with components rated for use in wet locations. Keep both the power cord and extension cord connections as far away as possible from the item being washed and away from any water runoff.
- Wear rubber-soled shoes that provide some insulation when using the pressure washer.
- Never remove the grounding prong from the pressure washer's power cord plug or the extension cord.
- Always have a qualified electrician check the pressure washer for after it has tripped a circuit breaker.
- Never allow children to operate a pressure washer. Keep children at a safe distance when an adult is using a pressure washer.

For more information about pressure washer safety, visit www.cdc.gov/disasters/pressurewashersafety.html.

In the news: A new form of mpox that may spread more easily found in Congo's biggest outbreak
www.apnews.com/article/mpox-congo-outbreak-who-fda17cea128f46e48110ad7adcd9e5de

Infographic: Clinicians can help prevent premature deaths in rural communities



To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/ss/ss7302a1.htm?s_cid=ss7302a1_w.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Join the Iowa HHS Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Program on Wednesday, May 8 at 12 noon for a webinar, *Sepsis Prevention for Frontline Healthcare Workers*. Sepsis is a life-threatening emergency that happens when a body's response to an infection damages vital organs, and often causes death. According to the Sepsis Alliance, more than 1.7 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with sepsis each year, and about 350,000 adults die. This webinar will increase understanding of sepsis and provide infection prevention and control strategies to prevent sepsis. Continuing education credits are available. To register, visit ecri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7aXopT30Q6GWgYWhsy6Ylg#/registration.

Have a healthy and happy week!
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