

Epi Update for Friday, August 9, 2024

CENTER FOR ACUTE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (CADE)

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Items for this week's Epi Update include

- **Mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, spread to neighboring countries**
- **Invasive *Cronobacter* in infants is a reportable disease in Iowa**
- **Bringing a dog into the U.S.**
- **In the news: Oropouche virus outbreak puts Latin America under alert**

Mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, spread to neighboring countries

CDC has issued a Health Update regarding the ongoing outbreak of mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Since January 2023, DRC has reported the largest number of yearly suspected clade I mpox cases on record. Clade I mpox is endemic to DRC, but the current outbreak is more widespread than previous outbreaks and has resulted in transmission to neighboring countries.

The Republic of the Congo declared a clade I mpox outbreak in April 2024, and cases have been confirmed in the Central African Republic. While clade I mpox is endemic in these countries, the epidemiologic pattern of recent cases suggests a possible link to DRC. In addition, in late July 2024, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda reported confirmed cases of mpox, with some cases having linkages to DRC. Rwanda and Uganda have confirmed these cases are due to clade I mpox. Mpox is not known to be endemic in these countries.

No cases of clade I mpox have been reported outside central and eastern Africa at this time.

Health care providers should maintain a heightened index of suspicion for mpox in patients who have recently been in DRC or bordering countries (Republic of the Congo, Angola, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, South Sudan, Central African Republic) and present with symptoms consistent with mpox. These include: rash that may be located on the hands, feet, chest, face, mouth, or near the genitals; fever; chills; swollen lymph nodes; fatigue; myalgia; headache; and respiratory symptoms like sore throat, nasal congestion, and cough.

Health care providers should contact CADE at 515-242-5935 if they suspect mpox in a patient with recent travel to DRC or neighboring countries or a patient who has been in close contact with someone with consistent symptoms and travel to DRC or neighboring countries.

Health care providers who suspect mpox in a patient without a connection to DRC or neighboring countries 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.

To view the full CDC Health Update, visit emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00513.asp.

Invasive *Cronobacter* in infants is a reportable disease in Iowa

Cronobacter is a germ found naturally in the environment. It can live in dry foods, like powdered infant formula, powdered milk, herbal teas, and starches. It has also been found in contaminated feeding items like breast pump equipment. Getting sick from *Cronobacter* does not happen often, but infections in infants can be deadly. Infants less than two months old are the most likely to develop meningitis if they are infected.



Although rare, the true number of invasive *Cronobacter* cases occurring each year in the U.S. is unknown, as the disease was just added to the list of nationally notifiable conditions in 2024. From January 2002 to July 2022, CDC received 76 reports of severe *Cronobacter* illnesses among infants. In February 2022, a multistate outbreak of invasive *Cronobacter* led to the recall of multiple powdered formula products. Four cases were identified, including two deaths. No cases were identified in Iowa.

Iowa health care providers and public, private, and hospital laboratories are required to report isolation of *Cronobacter* spp. (including, but not limited to *C. sakazakii* and *C. malonaticus*) in a clinical specimen from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid) in an infant (<12 months old) within one day of case identification. As part of the case investigation process, Iowa HHS will recommend that isolates or specimens be sent to the State Hygienic Laboratory for further testing.

Iowa HHS and local public health partners will follow-up on individual cases in an effort to identify potential exposures and detect outbreaks.

For more information about *Cronobacter*, visit www.cdc.gov/cronobacter/about/index.html.

Bringing a dog into the U.S.

On August 1, CDC released new required steps to take when bringing a dog to the U.S., depending on where the dog has been in the past 6 months. CDC simplified the process for meeting requirements for dogs arriving from dog rabies-free or low-risk countries. This means that for dogs that have been only in dog rabies-free or low-risk countries in the last 6 months, only one form is now needed, a *CDC Dog Import Form*. This is also true for dogs returning from Canada or Mexico. In addition to the completed form, these dogs must appear healthy upon arrival, be at least 6 months old at time of entry or return to the U.S., and have a microchip that can be detected with a universal scanner to identify them.

Dogs arriving to the U.S. from rabies-high-risk countries face additional requirements, and in some instances are denied entry.

For full dog import requirements, including forms, visit www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/index.html.

In the news: Oropouche virus outbreak puts Latin America under alert

www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/oropouche-virus-latin-america-mosquitoes-rcna165221

Have a healthy and happy week!
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