

Epi Update for Friday, September 27, 2024

CENTER FOR ACUTE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (CADE)

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Items for this week's EPI Update include

- Influenza vaccination recommendations, 2024 - 2025 season
- Remain vigilant for acute flaccid myelitis (AFM)
- Infographic: Check that you are using multi-dose vaccine vials safely every time
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Influenza vaccination recommendations, 2024 - 2025 season

Vaccination is the best way to reduce the risks from seasonal influenza and potentially serious complications. Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons > 6 months of age who do not have contraindications. Vaccination should ideally occur in September or October and should continue as long as influenza is circulating. Influenza vaccines may be administered at the same time as other vaccines.

Any age-appropriate influenza vaccine that is not otherwise contraindicated may be administered. Adults aged >65 years and older are preferentially recommended to receive any of the following: high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (Fluzone High-Dose), recombinant influenza vaccine (Flublok), or adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (Fluad). If none of these are available, any other age-appropriate vaccine may be used. A second dose of influenza vaccine is recommended 4 weeks or more after the first dose for children age 6 months through 8 years if they have not or don't know if they have received 2 doses in prior years.

Primary influenza vaccination guidance updates for the 2024 - 2025 season include:

- All 2024 - 2025 influenza vaccines will be trivalent. Following a period of no confirmed detections of wild-type influenza B/Yamagata lineage viruses in global surveillance since March 2020, influenza vaccines will not include an influenza B/Yamagata component.
- Vaccination recommendations have been updated to include HD-IIV3 and allV3 as acceptable options for solid organ transplant recipients aged 18 - 64 years who are receiving immunosuppressive medication regimens (without a preference over the age appropriate IIV3s or RIV3).

For more information about influenza vaccination, visit hhs.iowa.gov/immunization/flu and www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/summary/summary-recommendations.htm.

Remain vigilant for acute flaccid myelitis (AFM)

Fall generally brings seasonal increases in respiratory pathogens, including enteroviruses. Enterovirus D-68 (EV-D68) is believed to be responsible for the increase in acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) cases in 2014, 2016, and 2018. Nationally, AFM case reports have remained relatively low so far in 2024, despite seasonal increases in EV-D68. Increases in EV-D68 have historically preceded cases of AFM by about two weeks.

Suspected cases of AFM should be reported to CADE at 515-242-5935. Reporting criteria includes acute onset of flaccid limb weakness AND at least some gray matter lesions in the spinal cord. Clinicians should obtain CSF, respiratory fluid, blood, and whole stool samples as soon as possible from all patients with suspected AFM.

For more information about AFM, visit www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/testing/index.html.

Infographic: Check that you are using multi-dose vaccine vials safely every time

HOW DO I SAFELY USE A MULTI-DOSE VACCINE VIAL?

You vaccinate patients to protect them. Correctly using multi-dose vials keeps your patients safe from germs that can spread from contaminated vials, needles, and syringes.

CHECK THAT YOU ARE USING MULTI-DOSE VACCINE VIALS SAFELY EVERY TIME.

- ✓ Always prepare multi-dose vial injections away from patient care spaces in a clean designated area
- ✓ Clean your hands before touching the vial
- ✓ Check the label to make sure it is a multi-dose vaccine vial
- ✓ Check to make sure the vaccine is **not expired** or “beyond use”
- ✓ Look and see if the vaccine appears the way the vaccine maker tells you it should
- ✓ Use **brand-new, sterile needles and syringes** for every vaccine dose
- ✓ Disinfect the **top** part of the vial (the vial stopper) with an alcohol prep pad—**every time**
- ✓ Make sure the **top is dry** before sticking the needle in it
- ✓ When you first put a needle in, **write the date and time** on the label
- ✓ Follow the vaccine maker’s **instructions for storage**
- ✓ **Never “pool” doses** (combine partial doses from multiple vials to make one dose for a patient)

WHY + HOW

Logos: CDC, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, PROJECT FIRSTLINE

To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/PFL-T6-JobAid-508.pdf.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

The Mayo Clinic Center for Tuberculosis / Iowa TB Clinical Intensive will be held October 24 (clinicians only) and October 25 (all health care workers). Both trainings will occur at the UnityPoint Iowa Methodist Education Center in Des Moines. Although course content appears similar for each day, they are designed for separate audiences. Speakers for all sessions will be by clinicians with expertise in the management of LTBI and TB disease and presentations will be highlighted by case reviews. This clinical intensive has been developed uniquely for Iowa and represents the largest and most comprehensive training the TB Control Program has offered. This training will not be offered again for another three years. Complimentary full breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided. For more information, including the full agenda, hotel accommodations, directions, and continuing education information, visit ce.mayo.edu/public-health/content/iowa-tuberculosis-tb-clinical-intensive-2024-live-only-those-practice-medicine-iowa#group-tabs-node-course-default1.

To register, select the link below based on your role:

October 24, 2024 | 8 AM - 4 PM

Physician, Physician Assistant, and Nurse Practitioner Only

ce.mayo.edu/public-health/content/iowa-tuberculosis-tb-clinical-intensive-october-24-2024-physicians-physician-assistant-and#group-tabs-node-course-default5

October 25, 2024 | 7 AM - 4 PM

Nurses and All Healthcare Professionals

ce.mayo.edu/public-health/content/iowa-tuberculosis-tb-clinical-intensive-october-25-2024-nurses-and-other-healthcare

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