

**EPI Update for Friday, December 21, 2007  
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)  
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**Items for this week's EPI Update include:**

- **Interim recommendations for the use of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccines.**
- **Iowa State Poison Control Center annual report now available**
- **Heparin pre-filled syringe contamination**
  
- **Wishing you happy holiday's**

**Interim Recommendations for the Use of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b (Hib) Conjugate Vaccines.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommends that providers temporarily defer administering the routine Hib vaccine booster dose administered at age 12-15 months except to children in specific high risk groups.

Children at increased risk for Hib disease include those with asplenia, sickle cell disease, human immunodeficiency virus infection and certain other immunodeficiency syndromes, and malignant neoplasms. American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children also are at increased risk for Hib disease, particularly in the first 6 months of life. CDC recommends that providers continue to vaccinate these children with available Hib conjugate vaccines according to the routinely recommended schedules, including the 12-15 month booster dose. If you have questions regarding these recommendations, please contact the Iowa Immunization Program at 1-800-831-6293.

For more information, visit

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm56d1219a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm?s_cid=mm56d1219a1_e).

**Iowa State Poison Control Center annual report now available**

The 2005-2006 Iowa State Poison Control Center (ISPCC) annual report is now available. Twenty-thousand Iowans were managed, resulting in a net savings to Iowa's health care system of over \$5 million! A study conducted in 2006, showed that every \$1 invested in the ISPCC saved nearly \$9 in medical expenses. The health benefits of the ISPCC include averting the use of outdated or harmful home remedies for poisonings. The ISPCC is able to decrease injury, illness, and death due to poisoning by assessing patients early, initiating decontamination, and identifying patients who need more aggressive management.

For more information, visit [www.iowapoisson.org](http://www.iowapoisson.org).

### **Heparin pre-filled syringe contamination**

Physicians and Infection Control Practitioners are being alerted to watch for cases of *Serratia bacteremias*. Heparin flush pre-filled syringes from lot #070926H, manufactured by Sierra Pre-Filled Syringes have been linked to what is believed to be the source of the *Serratia bacteremias* contamination. The pre-filled syringes were distributed to Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Texas. The manufacturer has issued a voluntary recall. If a cluster of *Serratia bacteremia* is suspected, the *Serratia* isolates should be sent to UHL (University Hygienic Laboratory) for further molecular sub typing.

### **Happy holidays**

The Staff from the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very safe and Happy Holiday Season. The next publication of the Friday Epi Update will be after the New Year.

**Remember, with the holidays quickly approaching there are no shortcuts when washing your hands!**

### **Have a healthy and happy week!**

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
800-362-2736