

EPI Update for Friday, June 27, 2008
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Rural health concerns include flooded wells**
- **Did you know...what public health activities are occurring post- flooding in Iowa?**
- **June 27 is National HIV Testing Day**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Rural health concerns include flooded wells

There are thousands of private wells in Iowa. Recent and continued flooding has affected many of these wells, so private well owners need to be aware of safety precautions regarding flooded wells. If it is known or even suspected that a private well has been compromised by flood waters, stop using that well water immediately; contaminated well water should not be used for drinking, cooking, laundry or bathing. Other safety measures for private well owners who suspect water contamination include:

- Obtain water known to be safe from another source, or use bottled water. If you obtain water from another source known to be safe (hauling from a "water buffalo", another municipal water supply, etc.) put it in a CLEAN container.
- If bottled or other known safe water is unavailable, as a last resort, bring the well water to a rolling boil for one minutes
- After flood waters have receded, it is important to shock chlorinate your well with bleach. Information on the chlorination process may be found at: emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/
- Two days after chlorination has occurred, the water in the well needs to be tested by a laboratory. For more information on ordering a testing kit, go to www.uhl.uiowa.edu/services/wellwater/ordering.html
- Continue to use bottled water or a safe water supply for drinking, cooking, laundry and bathing until a laboratory has verified that your well water is safe to drink.
- Contact your county environmental health office for assistance in collecting and testing a water sample.

For more information on flood-related health issues, visit:
www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/flood.asp

Did you know...What public health activities are occurring post- flooding in Iowa?

Wonder what's happening in public health regarding recent widespread flooding? There are many types of public health activities occurring, both at local and state levels, and in coordination with Iowa's emergency management system.

Examples include:

- Coordinating community health needs assessments of flooded communities to better address those needs. (Thanks to the Florida and North Carolina Health Departments for their assistance with this.)
- Providing vaccinations to those for whom it is recommended.
- Ensuring clean water supplies and functional sanitary systems.
- Providing a variety of educational resources on topics such as: what to do with a flooded well, cleaning and disinfecting, returning home safely, and preventing CO poisoning and injuries.
- Providing food safety inspections.
- Increasing mosquito surveillance and prevention efforts.
- Promoting efforts to manage stress.
- Monitoring for acute disease outbreaks.
- Providing medical information to health care providers about flood-related health issues.

These are just a few of the day-to-day efforts that your local and state public health officials are providing to promote and protect the health of Iowans. Links and resources to assist Iowans in flood-related disease precautions and information are located at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/flood.asp. If there are other issues that you believe public health should be addressing, please let us know by replying to this update.

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 180,000 to 280,000 people nationwide are

HIV-positive but are unaware of their status. HIV counseling and testing enables people with HIV to take steps to protect their own health and that of their partners. The testing programs also help people who test negative get information they need to stay uninfected.

Across the country, thousands of HIV counseling and testing sites, state and local health departments, and community-based HIV/AIDS service providers will participate in NHTD events on June 27. To learn more about how to participate in NHTD, visit the NAPWA HIV Testing Day Web site at: www.napwa.org/public/programs/nhtd.php.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Save the date

The Iowa Department of Public Health Immunization Program is proud to present Vaccine University 2008. Classes will begin July 8th across the state. IDPH Immunization Program will offer Basic Vaccine 101, Storage and Handling (a repeat of the class from November 2007), and Hands-on IRIS Training.

Space is limited, so sign up early. There is no cost for Vaccine University, and Nursing and CMA CEUs are available. For more information, or to register online, visit our web page: www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp

Save the date

There will be a new Foundational Public Health Nursing Training coming soon for Iowa nurses interested in public health training. This course will be delivered online at: www.prepareiowa.com. Nursing continued education credits (CEUs) will also be available upon successful completion of the program. For further information, please contact Laurie Walkner at: laurie-walkner@uiowa.edu.

Have a healthy and happy week! Thanks to all those assisting with the flood efforts.

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