

EPI Update for Friday, April 23, 2010
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- ✍ **Elevated blood lead levels in patient with occupational exposure to a firing range**
- ✍ **World Meningitis Day- opportunity to discuss meningitis**
- ✍ **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Elevated blood lead levels in patient with occupational exposure to a firing range

A blood lead test result greater than 70 ug/dL was recently reported to the IDPH (all blood lead test results are reportable to IDPH and those levels greater than 10 ug/dL are actionable). The patient's elevated blood lead level was likely associated with occupational exposure to an indoor firing range.

Fortunately, the patient's medical provider recognized the possible occupational exposure and ordered a blood lead test. The patient did not have a previous blood lead test on record and was not being seen as part of an occupational monitoring program. Workers at risk for lead exposure (such as firing range employees) should be monitored for excessive blood lead levels.

For more information on lead exposure, contact IDPH at 800-972-2026 or visit the following resources:

- ? <http://origin.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ranges/>
- ? www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/exphistory/ehcover_page.html
- ? www.cphp.pitt.edu/en/Quick%20Guide.pdf .

World Meningitis Day- opportunity to discuss meningitis

World Meningitis Day, which is April 24th, provides a great opportunity for healthcare providers to discuss meningitis with their patients. Meningitis, the swelling of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord, is usually caused by viral or bacterial infections. Viral meningitis tends to be less severe than bacterial meningitis. Several causes of bacterial meningitis can be prevented by vaccines; these include meningococcal, pneumococcal, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib).

Each year more than 6,000 people in the U.S. die from infections caused by the above-mentioned bacteria. There are various reasons why this may occur:

- ? People were not vaccinated.
- ? Some people get the vaccine, but the immune response their bodies generate is not strong enough or long-lived enough to protect them from infection.
- ? People were infected by types of bacteria not covered by the vaccines.

To learn more about meningitis, please visit www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week.
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800-362-2736