

EPI Update for Friday, July 16, 2010
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Seasonal influenza recently detected in Iowa**
- **Enteric outbreaks around the state**
- **IDPH issues annual disease report**
- **Two diseases for the price of one share of a goat**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Seasonal influenza recently detected in Iowa

Two cases of seasonal influenza A (H3) have been identified in Johnson County by alert staff at the University of Iowa student health clinic. Though it is not unusual to identify a few sporadic cases of flu in the summer months, health professionals should be aware of the possibility for influenza infection. Recently, Pennsylvania and Hawaii also reported seasonal influenza A (H3) cases; this strain is also active in the Southern Hemisphere including Central America and South Africa.

Patients with influenza-like illness and no other apparent cause should be tested for influenza. Submit specimens to the State Hygienic Laboratory, regardless of the rapid influenza test result as these rapid tests have very poor accuracy when the level of influenza is low in the community. For information about laboratory testing, contact the lab at 319-335-4500. For all other questions regarding influenza, contact CADE at 800-362-2736.

Enteric outbreaks around the state

This week several cases of salmonellosis were identified in east central Iowa, with 3 people hospitalized. Also, 2 cases of *E. coli* diarrhea were reported in children attending a home day care center in eastern Iowa. Several cases of salmonellosis, possibly associated with restaurant, in northwestern Iowa are being investigated. And finally, 5 clusters of campylobacter around the state are also occurring.

It is very important that health care providers test patients with symptoms of gastroenteritis, especially when associated with other people who are ill, by having stool cultures taken and any enteric isolates sent to the SHL. The State Hygienic Laboratory is identifying the bacteria and performing pulse-field electrophoresis (PFGE). If the PFGE patterns (or DNA fingerprinting) of these strains are genetically similar, it will suggest a common exposure. For more information, call SHL at 319-335-4500.

IDPH issues annual disease report

The 2009 annual report provides a snapshot of events that impacted the public's health. In 2009, more than 53,000 reports of infectious disease were submitted to IDPH disease surveillance programs, as well as investigations of lead poisoning, occupational related diseases, and environmental hazards like carbon monoxide. Main points of the report include cases of Lyme disease topping 100 for the third consecutive year; the continued increase in chlamydial infections (which have been rising for the past 30 years) and a 19 percent increase of HIV cases compared to last year.

Regarding chlamydial infections, the surveillance report indicates there were 1,632 cases of chlamydial infection in Polk County in 2009. However, that was down by 344 cases from 2008. This is an encouraging trend, given that diagnoses statewide were level from 2008 to 2009, and in general, diagnoses have been increasing fairly steadily since 1996. *Chlamydia* occurs frequently among sexually active adolescents and young adults. Approximately 40 percent of chlamydial infections are undiagnosed and untreated each year, according to estimates from the CDC.

To view the report, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/default.asp and click on "Reports".

Two diseases for the price of one share of a goat

Illness of 30 people in Colorado was linked to the consumption of unpasteurized goat milk from a local dairy. Two children hospitalized. The milk was provided to purchasers of a "share" of a goat. *Campylobacter jejuni* and *E. coli* 0157:H7 were isolated from the goats, the milk and people who were ill (some people were infected with both organisms).

Purchasing unpasteurized dairy products by buying shares, which sometimes is done to circumvent state laws prohibiting sale of raw milk, can expose people to diseases such as salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, and *E. coli* diarrhea. CADE recommends only consuming pasteurized milk and milk products.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

The 2010 Disease Epidemiology and Prevention XIV (Fall EPI Update) will be held September 30th in Ankeny, Iowa at the DMACC campus. More information will be provided soon.

We wish everyone a healthy week!

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