

**EPI Update for Friday, August 20, 2010
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Preventing *Salmonella* illness**
- **Are you batty about bats?**
- **2010-2011 influenza vaccine**
- **New educational materials available**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Preventing *Salmonella* illness

In light of the recent recall of shell eggs from an Iowa egg producer, people should be aware of how to prevent egg-borne illness.

Salmonella can be found in intact eggs which may look and smell normal. To prevent illness at any time:

- Always cook eggs thoroughly before eating (the whites of the eggs are completely white, and the yolks are not runny).
- Avoid cross-contamination by immediately cleaning utensils and surfaces that have touched raw eggs or their shells.
- Pasteurized eggs are available for recipes that require eggs that are not fully cooked.

Salmonellosis causes fever, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps, typically 12 to 72 hours after exposure. Although illness can last four to seven days and most people recover without antibiotic treatment (which is usually not recommended), severe illness may occur in the very young, the elderly, pregnant women, or those with compromised immune systems.

Health care providers should order a stool culture if *Salmonella* is suspected.

For more information about *Salmonella*, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&content=Salmonella_factsheet

Are you batty about bats?

This August, many people have encountered bats in their homes, and questions have arisen about exposure to rabies.

Bottom line: if a bat may have bitten or exposed a person, it should be caught and tested. Every month there are people who have had a bat exposure and released a bat or killed a bat and threw it out. They then need to receive the rabies post exposure vaccine and rabies immune globulin. By having the bat tested, they may avoid receiving these shots.

A potential exposure to bat rabies is assumed to have occurred when a person is bit, or when a person awakens to find a bat in the same room (or a bat is in the same room as a non-verbal child or someone who cannot state that he or she was NOT bitten). Remember, bat teeth are extremely tiny, thus it is possible to be bitten during sleep and not awaken, and it is possible that no physical evidence of a bite be found even if a bite occurred. Thus, testing of the bat is recommended in these situations.

Bats captured for testing need to be kept cool, but not frozen. Put the bat in a plastic container or paper bag in a refrigerator while making arrangements for testing. The State Hygienic Laboratory will test the bat at no charge if human exposure has occurred (shipping cost is not covered). Information on shipping specimens is available from their website at www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/rabiesslip.pdf. Testing is also available for a fee at the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Information is available at vetmed.iastate.edu/diagnostic-lab/about.

If the bat's rabies test is positive (or cannot be tested, i.e. the specimen is decomposed), rabies post exposure prophylaxis should be given to the exposed persons. Current guidelines call for one dose of human rabies immune globulin and four doses of vaccine - the fifth dose of vaccine, which used to be given 28 days after the first dose, is no longer recommended except for immune-suppressed patients. For more information on rabies and bat exposures, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies_exposure_bats.pdf and www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/rabies.asp.

2010-2011 influenza vaccine

- At the current time, five influenza vaccine manufacturers are projecting 160 to 165 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine will be available for the 2010-2011 influenza season.
- **ALL** people six months of age and older are recommended to receive the influenza vaccination.
- Vaccination should begin as soon as vaccine is available. It takes up to two weeks for full protection to develop after vaccination, and this protection lasts up to a year. Influenza vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.
- Vaccine composition: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus. This H1N1 virus (in the 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccine) is the pandemic

H1N1 virus and is the same virus used in the 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccine last fall.

- Children between six months and eight years, who are receiving a seasonal influenza vaccine for the first time this year, should be given two doses of the flu vaccine separated by at least four weeks. Children, who have received only one dose of a seasonal influenza vaccine in the past, should receive two doses this year. In addition, children ages six months through eight years who did not receive at least one dose of the H1N1 vaccine last year, should receive two doses of this year's seasonal influenza vaccine, regardless of previous seasonal flu vaccination history.

Additional information can be found at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr59e0729.pdf and www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5931a4.htm

New educational materials available

New and updated materials available through the public health clearinghouse (Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center (ISAIC) Clearinghouse) include:

New materials:

- Head lice brochure in Spanish
- MRSA fact sheet in Spanish
- Antibiotic-resistance poster in Spanish
- MRSA fact sheets in English

Updated materials:

- Epidemiology of Foodborne Diseases poster
- Epidemiology of Common Communicable Diseases ("purple poster")
- Rabies Exposure Management for Bat-Related Incidents
- Recommendations for Managing Human Rabies Exposure

This clearinghouse provides free materials on infectious diseases, environmental health, HIV/AIDS, STDs, hepatitis, immunization, tobacco use prevention, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program.

For information on obtaining materials from the clearinghouse, visit www.drugfreeinfo.org/state/cart.php or call (319) 861-2852. Orders can also be faxed to (319) 395-7797.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Disease Epidemiology and Prevention XIV (2010 Fall Epi Update XIV) will be held at only one location this year – in Ankeny on September 30. For more information go to

www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/2010_fall_update.pdf

Have a healthy and happy week!
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