

EPI Update for Friday, October 8, 2010
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **West Nile virus death reported in Iowa**
- **Rabies prevention lessons from a human rabies case**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

West Nile virus death reported in Iowa

IDPH announced this week that an elderly woman (81 years of age or older) from central Iowa recently died of West Nile virus. This is the first reported death associated with the virus since 2008. So far in 2010, there have been six human cases of West Nile virus reported in Iowa, including the recent death. In addition to the human cases, nine positive sentinel chickens, seven positive mosquito pools, one positive horse and one positive blood donor have also been reported in the state.

Health care professionals should remain on alert for potential West Nile virus infections as the recent cooler temperatures and partial frosts in Iowa have not yet completely eliminated the mosquito population. The potential for West Nile virus activity remains and commonly lasts into the late fall. Iowans should continue to protect themselves against mosquito bites. For additional West Nile virus information visit:

www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/wnv_surveillance.asp

Rabies prevention lessons from a human rabies case

The case report from a 2009 human rabies death in Virginia was recently published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The patient, a psychiatrist, had reported to family that he had an encounter with a dog during a recent trip to India; however, he did not receive medical care or rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. Three months after the trip he began experiencing neurologic symptoms which were initially diagnosed as lumbar back pain. Four days later his symptoms worsened, and he raised concern about the possibility of rabies. Serum, CSF, nuchal skin biopsy, and saliva were tested and found to be positive at CDC. Rabies treatment was initiated using the "Milwaukee protocol." His condition continued to deteriorate and he died 25 days after being hospitalized.

This case underscores two important aspects of rabies prevention:

- 1) the importance of educating persons traveling abroad about rabies risks. For travelers' health information, visit: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/
- 2) the need to seek prompt medical evaluation after an animal exposure

To access the case report visit:

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5938a3.htm?s_cid=mm5938a3_x

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None at this time.

Have a healthy and happy week!
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