

EPI Update for Friday, October 15, 2010
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Pertussis activity continues**
- **International Infection Prevention Week**
- **Update on non-influenza respiratory virus surveillance**
- **Halloween food safety tips**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Pertussis activity continues

Pertussis (whooping cough) activity is continuing statewide. There have been 362 cases reported this year, up from 196 cases reported for the same time period in 2009.

In 2010:

- The majority of cases have been reported in school-age children:
 - 5-9 years (25 percent)
 - 10-14 years (29 percent)
 - 15-19 years (7 percent)
- 54 percent of cases are females and 46 percent are males
- 48 counties were affected with 20 percent of cases occurring in Scott County and 17 percent in Warren County.

Pertussis is prevented by immunization. Adolescents and adults are significant sources of transmission of pertussis, especially to infants too young to be fully protected by the vaccine. Providers should make sure patients of all ages are up-to-date on pertussis-containing vaccines; DTaP for infants/children and Tdap for adolescents/adults.

For more information on pertussis, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/pertussis.asp

International Infection Prevention Week

The week of October 17 through October 23, 2010 is International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW). IIPW was designated to acknowledge the contributions of infection preventionists, healthcare workers and healthcare administrators in making healthcare safer for all patients.

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are a leading cause of preventable death in the U.S, affecting 5 to 10 percent of hospitalized patients and causing nearly 2 million infections and 100,000 deaths each year. Healthcare workers and consumers in healthcare settings are encouraged to observe this week by planning programs and activities that renew their efforts to prevent healthcare-associated infections.

Update on non-influenza respiratory virus surveillance

Since early September, Iowa's sentinel clinics have been submitting specimens on patients with respiratory illness. SHL has confirmed several respiratory pathogens; primarily parainfluenza 2 and rhinoviruses. Other viruses detected include parainfluenza 3, adenovirus, and enterovirus.

Halloween food safety tips

As Halloween is approaching, it's time for Halloween party food safety tips:

- Keep all perishable foods chilled until serving time. Cold temperatures help keep the most frightful bacteria from multiplying.
- Don't leave perishable goodies out for more than two hours at room temperature (1 hour in temperatures above 90^o F).
- Serve pasteurized products if juice or cider is served at the Halloween party. Unpasteurized juice or cider can contain harmful bacteria such as *E.coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella*.
- Don't taste dough and batters that contain uncooked eggs when whipping up Halloween treats. Wait until they have been thoroughly cooked.
- Remind kids (and adults too!) to wash hands before eating to help prevent foodborne illness.

For more information on food safety, visit www.foodsafety.gov/

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None.

Have a healthy and happy week! Enjoy the wonderful autumn weather.

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