Items for this week’s EPI Update include:

- Iowa’s beach water monitoring program
- Newborn screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)
- Dr. Aldous to head SHL’s Disease Control Division
- Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Mobile App
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Iowa’s beach water monitoring program
Routine water quality monitoring is conducted at all of Iowa’s park beaches and many locally managed beaches in Iowa. Most beach monitoring is conducted between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources works with various public health and management agencies to inform the public of the most current water quality conditions. Results for specific beaches are published as soon as they become available.

For more information, visit www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/BeachMonitoring.aspx.

Newborn screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)
SCID is an inherited disorder of the immune system with an incidence of one in 50,000 to one in 60,000 live births. There are more than 15 known genetic causes for SCID and without early diagnosis and treatment many babies will die by age 12 months. SCID will become part of the standard newborn screening panel starting July 1, 2014. All laboratory testing is performed at the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) Newborn Screening (NBS) laboratory located in Ankeny, which performs testing 365 days a year with processing of specimens throughout the night. SHL contracts with Central Delivery Service of Iowa to provide year-round same-day courier service for all Iowa NBS specimens from collection sites to the SHL NBS laboratory.

If you have any questions about the addition of SCID screening, please contact SHL at 515-725-1600 and ask to speak to the newborn screening laboratory about SCID. For more information on SCID screening, visit www.cdc.gov/newbornscreening/scid.html.

Dr. Aldous to head SHL’s Disease Control Division
On May 21, Lt. Col. Wade Aldous, Ph.D., accepted the position of Director of SHL’s Disease Control Division. Dr. Aldous is currently the Chief of Microbiology for the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School in San Antonio, Texas, and is expected to join SHL in July after fulfilling his military obligations. Dr. Aldous has more than 14 years of global clinical microbiology experience. Previously, he served as the Medical Director of Microbiology at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, and Chief of the Microbiology Division at the Landstuhl Regional
Medical Center in Germany. His work with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases includes his current duties as laboratory trainer and a three-year stint as Laboratory Training Director for the Cooperative Threat Reduction in the Republic of Georgia, where he provided lectures and training labs for identification of extremely dangerous pathogens. On a year’s deployment in Iraq, he served as the Theater Lab Consultant, providing technical advice on staffing, equipment and testing support for nine different military clinical laboratories across the country. Dr. Aldous earned his doctoral degree in biology/microbiology at the University of Alabama and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical microbiology at the University of Utah.

For more information on SHL, visit www.shl.uiowa.edu.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Mobile Apps
CDC has developed an app to provide fast access to the MMWR Weekly Report – CDC’s vehicle for scientific publication of timely, reliable, authoritative, accurate, objective, and useful public health information and recommendations. For information on how to download, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_mobileapps.html.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities
None

Have a healthy and happy week!
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