

**EPI Update for Friday, October 18, 2013**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**Items for this week's EPI Update include:**

- **Get your shots before you pack**
- **Fall harvest respiratory concerns**
- **Measles from yesterday to present**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Get your shots before you pack**

Recently, a cluster of Hepatitis A cases occurred within a family. The first case patient became ill with fatigue, jaundice and diarrhea approximately 45 days after returning from a trip to Latin America. A week to 10 days later, two family members also became ill and tested positive for Hepatitis A infection. Eight additional family members were exposed to the ill individuals; six were given Hepatitis A vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis and two IG (greater than 40 years old).

When you travel to foreign countries you may be exposed to illnesses you are not likely to encounter in the United States. To assist international travelers in preparing for a safe trip, CDC has developed a traveler's health web site that that can be used by travelers and clinicians.

For travel information from the CDC, visit: [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/new-cdc-travelers-health-website](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/new-cdc-travelers-health-website) .

For an international travel checklist, visit:

[www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=C73E8D9E-CE7C-48A0-A33E-7C3E35F7E1C1](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=C73E8D9E-CE7C-48A0-A33E-7C3E35F7E1C1) .

**Fall harvest respiratory concerns**

A case of Silo Filler's Disease was recently reported. Silo Filler's Disease is an occupational pulmonary disease resulting from exposure to oxides of nitrogen, which form rapidly in farm silos that are filled with fresh organic material (e.g., corn, grains). Hours after the organic material is stored, toxic and lethal levels of nitrogen dioxide, which is heavier than air, develop on top of the silage. When farm workers enter the silo or are near its open hatches during the first 10 days after filling (without proper precautions), they may experience various degrees of silo filler's disease.

Inhalation of oxides of nitrogen can cause sudden death, pulmonary edema, and/or bronchiolitis obliterans. Additional information can be found in the IDPH Epidemiology Manual at

[www.idph.state.ia.us/idph\\_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=Hypersensitivity\\_pneumonitis](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=Hypersensitivity_pneumonitis).

Silo Filler's Disease, Farmer's Lung, and Organic Dust Toxic Syndrome are all occupational conditions that need to be reported to IDPH.

For more information, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/reportable\\_diseases.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/reportable_diseases.asp) or call 800-972-2026.

### **Measles from yesterday to present**

Historically, measles has been an extremely common disease. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, almost every child in the United States contracted the measles virus by the age of 15, which resulted in hundreds of deaths and thousands of complications each year. In the early 1960s, Iowa saw an average of about 5,000 measles cases per year, and over 12,000 in epidemic years.

This changed in the mid-1960s when the new measles vaccine was introduced. Rates dropped significantly across the country, demonstrating the excellent effectiveness of the vaccine. In Iowa, just two years were needed to greatly reduce the incidence of measles. 5500 cases were seen in 1966, and just 163 cases were seen in 1968. Today, measles is very uncommon in the United States, with most cases coming as a result of importation; however, pockets of unvaccinated individuals have allowed the virus to spread when contact with these groups is made. It is important to maintain vaccination coverage to prevent the spread of measles when it is brought into this country.

The measles vaccine is given in combination with the mumps and rubella vaccines (MMR). It is recommended that all children get two doses of the MMR vaccine: the first at 12 to 15 months of age, and the second at 4 to 6 years of age.

For more information on immunization schedules, visit:

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=Schedule> .

For more information on measles history, incidence and vaccination visit [www.cdc.gov/measles/about/overview.html](http://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/overview.html).

### **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

#### **2013 Influenza Teleconference/Webinar**

An update on influenza activity, vaccine, antiviral medications, laboratory testing, and statewide surveillance will be offered October 22, 2013, noon -1:00 pm. To participate by teleconference, webinar or both, register at

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013InfluenzaTeleconferenceWebinar](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013InfluenzaTeleconferenceWebinar).

#### **2013 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference**

2013 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference will be held November 19-20 at the Gateway Center in Ames. "The Many Faces of Agriculture" theme reflects the diverse topics that will be offered. There will also be a track covering basic first responder training curriculum for incidents involving grain, with an intended audience of first responders, fire-rescue responders, and other emergency response personnel.

For more information or to register, go to [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2013/index.html](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2013/index.html).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**  
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