

**EPI Update for Friday, January 17, 2014  
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)  
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

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

- **Influenza deaths reported in Iowa**
- **Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1)**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Influenza deaths reported in Iowa**

An influenza-related death in a healthy Iowa child (0 to 17 years of age) has been reported to IDPH. IDPH has also been notified of several probable adult deaths related to influenza. CDC reported that as of January 4, ten influenza-related pediatric deaths have been reported nationally.

It is not too late to get vaccinated, especially for children, as this year's most common influenza strain (H1N1) is hitting children particularly hard.

For more information on influenza in Iowa or to view the weekly flu report, visit:  
[www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx?pg=FluHome](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx?pg=FluHome)

**Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1)**

On January 8, Canada reported the first confirmed case of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus in North America. The patient exhibited symptoms while returning from Beijing, China, on December 27, 2013, was hospitalized on January 1, 2014 and died on January 3.

H5N1 infections are rare and do not spread easily from person to person. Most human cases of H5N1 detected in other parts of the world in people with direct or close contact with poultry. To date, no human H5N1 cases have been reported in the United States.

Clinicians should consider H5N1 infection in persons with respiratory illness who have recent travel or exposure history. If H5N1 infection is suspected, respiratory specimens should be collected (with appropriate infection control precautions) testing at the State Hygienic Laboratory.

For more information on avian influenza in general, visit:  
[www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/healthprofessionals.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/healthprofessionals.htm). For the CDC health advisory on this H5N1 case, visit: [www.emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00360.asp](http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00360.asp)

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

CDC Webinar on the 2013-2014 Influenza Season: Updates and Recommendations for Clinicians, Thursday, January 23, 1:00 – 2:00 PM. For more information, visit:  
[emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo\\_012314.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_012314.asp)

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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