

EPI Update for Friday, October 12, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Multi-state fungal meningitis outbreak update**
- **Influenza activity update**
- **The season is upon us**
- **Imagine this...it isn't hard to do – Infection Prevention Week**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Multi-state fungal meningitis outbreak update

The ongoing multi-state fungal meningitis outbreak is now associated with 137 cases (including 12 deaths) in 10 states. All three lots of implicated steroid medication from the New England Compounding Center were recalled. No Iowa clinics received any of these implicated products.

More recently, a larger voluntary recall of all products from this compounding pharmacy occurred, and a small amount of these products were sent to Iowa. These products have been removed from pharmacy shelves. None of these products have been associated with infections or with the multi-state outbreak.

Patients who received steroid injections in other states and have symptoms should be seen and assessed by a health care provider immediately. Questions regarding what medication they received should be referred either to the health care facility where they were treated or that state's health department.

For the most up to date information regarding this outbreak, visit www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/meningitis.html.

For a list and map of clinics that received the implicated products, visit www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/meningitis-facilities-map.html.

Influenza activity update

The 2012 flu season in Iowa is underway. Since September, 2012, the State Hygienic Laboratory has identified three strains of influenza - influenza A (H3N2), 2009 H1N1, and influenza B - circulating in Iowa. All three strains are covered by this year's influenza vaccine. Now is the time to encourage all Iowans over 6 months of age to get vaccinated against the flu. The flu vaccine not only protects the individual from illness, but also those around them.

For additional information on influenza activity, review the weekly surveillance report at www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

The season is upon us

Fall is the season for influenza and colds. This comes on top of the continuing pertussis outbreak. All three presentations are coughing illness. Recommendations for health care providers caring for patients with a coughing illness include routinely wearing a mask, such as a surgical or procedure mask for non-aerosol-generating procedures. For complete recommendations for patients presenting with coughing illness, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=7D2D27A0-AC33-468D-AAE6-E1E374DE68D5.

Imagine this... it isn't hard to do – Infection Prevention Week

Health care workers (HCW) regularly come in contact with people who are at highest risk of developing influenza complications; a few years ago, Iowa dared to imagine that it could become a leader in influenza immunization for HCW.

Everyone pulled together to make this dream a reality. Infection preventionists and employee health staff worked together to provide vaccine and HCW rolled up their sleeves. According to the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, nearly 94 percent of all Iowa hospital workers received their annual flu vaccine in the 2011-12 season; this compares to a national rate of 66.9 percent (CDC).

October 14 through 20 is International Infection Prevention week. This year IDPH encourages all health care personnel (not just those who work in hospitals) to imagine Iowa as a place where every HCWs in every health care facility get a flu vaccine, and washes their hands before and after every patient contact.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

CADE Fall EPI Update webinar

The Iowa Department of Public Health Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology will be holding a “Fall EPI Update” webinar on Wednesday, October 31st from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The target audience for this webinar includes local public health and hospital infection prevention partners. Topics will include a review of 2011 disease trends and hot topics in 2012. Registration information will be included in next week’s EPI Update.

2012 Fall Colloquium—*Communicating the Value of Public Health*

Thursday, November 8, 2012

Callaghan Auditorium (N110), College of Public Health Building
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

There is no charge to attend. Participants wishing to attend should register at <http://training-source.org/events/event-registration/?ee=1> by **Monday, November 5, 2012**. Full-time attendance at this program will award .25 CEUs or 2.5 contact hours.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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