

EPI Update for Friday, February 1, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Influenza update**
- **Other respiratory viruses also circulating**
- **Norovirus training for Clinicians and Public Health**
- **Updated immunization schedules now available**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Influenza update

Flu activity in Iowa is still high, but the number of flu associated hospitalizations continues to decrease. The number of schools with 10 percent or greater absenteeism due to illness continues to increase. For the most recent flu activity report, visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

Other respiratory viruses also circulating

While influenza virus is getting a great deal of attention, other respiratory viruses, including parainfluenza type 2 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), are currently circulating in Iowa and were detected by SHL this month. Testing is available at SHL for these and other respiratory viruses, which can assist in determining therapy options and infection control practices.

Both RSV and parainfluenza can be clinically indistinguishable from influenza. However, RSV usually results in milder symptoms, similar to the common cold, including cough, runny nose, sore throat, fever, and earache, while parainfluenza can cause severe disease such as croup or pneumonia.

Norovirus training for Clinicians and Public Health

Health care professionals in Iowa are encouraged (especially given the number of outbreaks of norovirus occurring) to take advantage of the below CDC online training. This one hour norovirus training covers all aspects of norovirus that health professionals need to know. It is available as a webcast, slides, audio or transcript. A variety of educational credits are offered – CME, CNE, CEU, CEHC, ACPE and AAVSB/RACE.

Stopping Norovirus in its Tracks

Noroviruses are responsible for more than half of all reported outbreaks of gastroenteritis in the United States, and contribute to about 70,000 hospitalizations and 800 deaths each year. While outbreaks can occur in a variety of settings, healthcare facilities, to include nursing homes and hospitals, are the most commonly reported settings for norovirus outbreaks. Clinicians have a critical role in the management and prevention of outbreaks. During this CDC call, an expert will discuss the burden of norovirus outbreaks, review diagnostics and surveillance tools, and the resources available to prevent and control infections. Go to emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_011713.asp.

Updated immunization schedules now available

Each year, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviews the current recommended immunization schedules for persons from birth through 18 years and adults aged 19 years and older. In October 2012, ACIP approved the recommended immunization schedules to ensure they reflect the current recommendations for licensed vaccines. The 2013 immunization schedule is available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html. Printable versions of the 2013 immunization schedules are available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Registration for the *2013 Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health* is now open and available at www.iowapha.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=127969. The conference will be held April 9-10 at the Scheman Conference Center in Ames.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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Iowa Department of Public Health
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