

**EPI Update for Friday, May 2, 2014**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

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

- **First Case of MERS-CoV confirmed in the United States**
- **20 Years of Vaccines for Children**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**First Case of MERS-CoV confirmed in the United States**

Today CDC announced the first confirmed case of MERS-CoV in a traveler to the United States. All reported cases to date have been linked to six countries in the Arabian Peninsula: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Kuwait. The first known cases of MERS-CoV occurred in Jordan in April 2012.

There is no vaccine or specific treatment recommended for the virus and it is currently unknown where the virus came from or exactly how it spreads. In some cases, the virus has spread from infected people to others through close contact; however, there is currently no evidence of sustained community spread of MERS-CoV.

If you suspect a patient may be infected with MERS, please contact IDPH immediately. Information about the testing at can be found at [www.shl.uiowa.edu/news/mers.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/news/mers.xml)

For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/MERS/>

**20 Years of Vaccines for Children**

A recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report released by the CDC celebrates the success of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program over the last 20 years. The VFC program was created in 1994 as part of the nation's response to the 1989 – 1991 resurgence of measles that resulted in 55,000 cases and more than 100 deaths. The VFC program provides access to vaccines for children and adolescents who might not otherwise be able to afford them.

According to the report, vaccinations administered over the last 20 years will prevent an estimated 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations, and 732,000 deaths. By preventing these illnesses, these vaccinations will also save an estimated \$295 billion in direct costs and \$1.38 trillion in societal costs.

Although there has been great success, more global travel and trade means diseases such as measles may spread faster than ever before. The measles vaccine has been available since 1963; a lack of vaccine coverage triggered the resurgence of measles cases in 1989-91. Recent measles outbreaks underscore the importance of sustaining high vaccination coverage. As of April 25, 154 cases of measles and 14 outbreaks have been reported in the U.S. this year. The last case of measles in Iowa was in 2011.

CDC recommends two doses of MMR vaccine for everyone starting at age 12 months. Infants 6 through 11 months old are recommended to receive 1 dose of MMR vaccine before international travel.

To view the full Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, visit:

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6316a4.htm?s\\_cid=mm6316a4\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6316a4.htm?s_cid=mm6316a4_w)

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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