

EPI Update for Friday, April 19, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **A possible case of cholera in Iowa**
- **Influenza update and B/Victoria**
- **For all facilities performing tuberculin skin tests (TST)**
- **Flooding and health concerns**
- **Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) in Iowa**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

A possible case of cholera in Iowa

An Southwestern Iowa child (0 to 17 years) who traveled with a small group to the Dominican Republic (including rural areas) has been preliminarily diagnosed with cholera. SHL is performing confirmatory tests for *Vibrio cholera* and public health is contacting the other members of the small group. Secondary spread is very rare in the United States. Cholera is immediately reportable to the health department; the last case reported in Iowa was in 1999.

Most cases in the U.S. are in international travelers returning from areas having outbreaks of cholera. Travelers who venture outside of normal tourist areas, such as adventure travelers, volunteers, and those in mission groups have a higher risk of diseases like cholera. Thus it is recommended that all travelers, and especially these high risk travelers, contact a travel clinic prior to travel to ensure appropriate vaccinations and anti-malarial prophylaxis, and to receive education on that locale's specific disease risks and prevention. For more information on ensuring healthy international travel, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=C73E8D9E-CE7C-48A0-A33E-7C3E35F7E1C1 and <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/> .

Influenza Update and B/Victoria

SHL has confirmed 1605 cases of Influenza A and 365 cases of Influenza B this season as part of the statewide surveillance program. Further characterization of the B viruses by the CDC indicate that both B/Wisconsin (B/Yamagata lineage) and B/Brisbane (B/Victoria lineage) strains have been circulating in Iowa. In the U.S., 215 B/Victoria have been confirmed nationwide; this strain was not in this season's vaccine.

Next season (2013-2014 flu season) both a typical trivalent and newly licensed quadrivalent vaccine will be available. The trivalent vaccine will contain two influenza A viruses and a B/Yamagata strain. The quadrivalent vaccine will contain the same three strains in the trivalent vaccine and the B/Victoria strain.

For all Facilities performing tuberculin skin tests (TST)

Because of a nationwide shortage of tuberculin skin test (TST) antigens (see emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00345.asp), SHL is offering QuantiFERON TB Gold testing as a substitute for TST.

SHL performs the QuantiFERON TB Gold test daily, with a typical turnaround time of 24 hours for specimens received Monday through Thursday; specimens received on Friday will have results the following Monday. Since this testing requires specific blood collection kits, please contact SHL at 319-335-4275 prior to testing. The CPT code and charge for this testing can be found on the Clinical Test Menu at www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/clinicaltestmenu.xml.

Questions regarding TST product availability should be directed to normal manufacturing/distribution contacts.

Flooding and health concerns

Health concerns related to heavy rainfall and flash flooding and exposure to flood waters include:

- Skin and tissue infections following superficial cuts, scratches, abrasions, or insect bites.
- Deep tissue infections following puncture wounds or trauma.
- Gastrointestinal illnesses following ingestion of contaminated water or food.

Flooding and exposure to flood waters does not increase the risk for tetanus, however cleaning up after a flood may increase the risk of a wound that may require tetanus prophylactic treatment. Healthcare providers should ensure that all patients are up-to-date with their tetanus vaccinations (Td/Tdap).

Flood waters that cover the well head of a private well can contaminate the well and make it unsafe to use. If a private water well is flooded:

- Do not drink or cook with water from flooded wells until it is properly disinfected and tested for drinking safety.
- Contact the local county health department or extension service for advice on proper disinfection and how to collect and submit a water sample for testing. Most counties can offer free private well water testing.

Additional information and resources related to disinfecting and testing private water wells is available at www.shl.uiowa.edu/env/privatewell/ordering.xml.

Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) in Iowa

Chlamydia and gonorrhea represent the first and second most commonly reported conditions in Iowa and in the U.S. Gonorrhea is becoming more difficult to treat due to the declining susceptibility of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to the cephalosporin. New CDC treatment guidelines, available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6131a3.htm?s_cid=mm6131a3_e, recommend for gonorrhea - 250mg ceftriaxone (intramuscular) plus 1 gram azithromycin (orally, in a

single dose). Any other treatment regimen should be followed up with a test of cure to assure that bacteria have been eradicated.

Sexually active adolescents and young adults account for the greatest number of reported cases of STDs and should be screened for chlamydia and gonorrhea on at least an annual basis. As an added diagnostic tool, SHL now can perform screening tests for chlamydia and gonorrhea from oropharyngeal and rectal sites. For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=42F67C40-3CA1-4ECE-98F5-7D426A7E0792. For more information on STD Awareness Week, visit www.cdc.gov/Features/STDAwareness/.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Agricultural Medicine Course, June 10-14 in Iowa City will include training on occupational illnesses and injuries on the farm. For more information contact Kay Mohling at 319-335-4219 or kay-mohling@uiowa.edu or go to cph.uiowa.edu/icash/.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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