

**EPI Update for Friday, December 10, 2010**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

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

- **Influenza activity jumps - three flu strains identified**
- **Is it flu, a cold or pertussis?**
- **CADE website update**
- **CADE project on varicella outbreaks**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Influenza activity jumps - three flu strains identified**

Just in time for National Influenza Vaccination Week, the State Hygienic Laboratory identified all three strains of influenza in patient specimens submitted from three different regions of Iowa. The strains were confirmed to be influenza A (H3N2), 2009 H1N1, and influenza B. All three are covered by this year's influenza vaccine. Nationally, many states are reporting increases in activity indicating that flu season has arrived.

With confirmed activity throughout the state, now is the time to encourage influenza vaccination. Those that receive the vaccine this week will be protected in time for holiday gatherings. Additionally, with all three strains circulating, there is a possibility that patients may be infected with more than one strain of influenza. This is yet another reason to encourage vaccination.

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

**Is it flu, a cold or pertussis?**

Flu, colds, and pertussis are highly contagious and might look alike in the initial stages. For a comparison of the symptoms for each illness, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/flu/flu\\_colds\\_pertussis.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/flu/flu_colds_pertussis.pdf)

**CADE website update**

The Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) is pleased to announce the completion of the CADE website update. The new and improved website features include:

- Easy to access information on each disease reportable to CADE with statistics and links to resources for our many audiences
- Convenient links to frequently used resources such as the Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center Clearinghouse, the EPI Manual, and archived Friday EPI Updates
- A News and Events section

- Links to our other important websites like Seasonal Influenza, HAI, Antibiotic Resistance and IDSS
- Access to our published surveillance reports

Please visit our new website at [www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/default.aspx](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/default.aspx). If you have any questions or encounter any problems, please let us know by calling the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at 515-242-5935.

### **CADE project on varicella outbreaks**

The Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology is requesting that counties, schools and health providers report clusters of chickenpox cases in pre-school and school age children. CADE is participating in an ongoing investigation of varicella vaccine effectiveness; CADE staff will assist local agencies in collecting aggregate data on number of affected children, number of immunized children, and numbers of lesions.

This effort does not change our current disease reporting policies. Individual varicella cases are not reportable, but suspected outbreaks are. CADE staff will not be requesting information on individuals, nor providing information on individuals to the CDC. For further information or to report any clusters, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Miller at 515-954-9500 or the Disease Reporting Hotline 1-800-362-2736, option 2.

### **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

### **Have a healthy and happy week!**

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
800-362-2736