

**EPI Update for Friday, January 4, 2013**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

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

- **FDA expands Tamiflu use for young children**
- **Pertussis – We are not alone**
- **Norovirus in Iowa**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**FDA expands Tamiflu use for young children**

The FDA has approved the expanded use of Tamiflu (oseltamivir) to treat children as young as two weeks old who have had symptoms of flu for less than two days. It is important to note that the drug is not approved for use in preventing influenza infection in this population. Note: the safety and efficacy of Tamiflu to treat influenza has not been established in children younger than two weeks old. For more information, visit:

[www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm333205.htm](http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm333205.htm)

Children younger than two years are at high risk for developing complications from the influenza, and the highest rates of hospitalization are found in children less than six months of age.

**Pertussis – We are not alone**

There were large numbers of pertussis cases both in Iowa and in the United States in 2012. Other European countries such as England, Estonia, Norway and the Netherlands also had high numbers. Sadly, England alone has reported 14 infant deaths from Pertussis in 2012.

Most of these countries had highest levels of illness in unvaccinated infants and adolescents. While it is recommended that everyone be up to date on their Pertussis vaccination, it is important that any adults traveling to Europe ensure that they have received their Tdap booster. For more information, visit

[www.cdc.gov/pertussis/countries.html](http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/countries.html)

**Norovirus in Iowa**

Recently, Norovirus outbreaks have been reported in Iowa. These outbreaks have occurred among employees and residents of long term care facilities, holiday parties, and office get-togethers. (Norovirus is the most common cause of vomiting and diarrheal outbreaks in Iowa).

Those in certain high-risk occupations (i.e. food handlers, healthcare providers, childcare providers) should not work while ill. Note: people can remain infectious for a couple days after symptoms have resolved, so individuals in these occupations should not return to work until 48 hours after symptoms have ended.

While individual cases of Norovirus are not reportable in Iowa, all outbreaks must be reported. If an outbreak is suspected, please collect stool samples from patients and contact public health immediately. IDPH has guidance on how to clean and disinfect areas where outbreaks have taken place to prevent further transmission of the virus.

For more information, visit:

[www.idph.state.ia.us/idph\\_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual) and look for Norovirus under “Information on other diseases”.

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

*Iowa Governor’s Conference on Public Health*, April 9 – 10, 2013, Scheman Conference Center, Ames, Iowa. For more information, visit:

[www.iowapha.org/Default.aspx?pageId=127969](http://www.iowapha.org/Default.aspx?pageId=127969).

*Live Healthy Iowa 2013*: Begins on January 28 and runs thru April 5, 2013. Registration opened December 19. For more information, visit: [www.livehealthyiowa.org/](http://www.livehealthyiowa.org/).

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

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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