

EPI Update for Friday, November 18, 2011 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **First influenza cases of the season**
- **Pneumococcal vaccine recommendations**
- **Cooking safe over the holidays**
- **Omission in last week's Friday Update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

First influenza cases of the season

The first two cases of seasonal influenza have been confirmed for the 2011-2012 season in a child and an adult in central Iowa.

Please continue to encourage vaccination of all patients 6 months of age and older. While the flu vaccine is the best defense against getting influenza, it's also important to take personal actions to help prevent the spread of illness. Remember the 3Cs: Cover your coughs and sneezes; Clean your hands frequently; and Contain germs by staying home when ill.

For more information about influenza, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx and www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=Flu.

Pneumococcal vaccine recommendations

Who needs to be vaccinated with Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPSV)?

- 1) Adults age 65 years and older.
- 2) Adults ages 19 years and older who smoke cigarettes.
- 3) Persons ages 2 to 64 years who:
 - have chronic cardiovascular disease (e.g., congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy), chronic pulmonary disease (e.g., COPD, emphysema, adults with asthma), or diabetes mellitus, or who are cochlear implant patients.
 - have chronic liver disease (including cirrhosis), are alcoholic, or have a cerebrospinal fluid leak.
 - live in special environments (some adults ages 50 to 64 years who are Alaska Natives or American Indian).
- 4) Persons ages 2 to 64 years with functional or anatomic asplenia.
- 5) Persons ages 2 to 64 years with chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome.
- 6) Immunocompromised persons ages 2 to 64 years,

Who needs a second dose of Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPSV)?

A one-time revaccination is indicated for:

- All children and adults through age 64 years who are at highest risk of serious pneumococcal disease or are likely to have a rapid decline in pneumococcal antibody levels if 5 years or more since the previous dose.
- All adults age 65 years and older previously vaccinated with one dose of PPSV when younger than age 65 years, if 5 years or more since the previous dose.

(Adults who are first vaccinated at age 65 years or older need only one dose, regardless of their medical condition)

For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5934a3.htm.

Cooking safe over the holidays

Thanksgiving dinner often means cooking for a large number of people and cooking less common foods, such as a 25-pound turkey. Information on safe cooking can be found at www.cdc.gov/Features/TurkeyTime/.

Omission in last week's Friday Update

In last week's article on safe disposal of needles and sharps, the link to the new FDA website was inadvertently omitted. Here is the link:

www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/Sharps/ucm20025647.htm.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

There will be no Epi Update published next week because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The next edition will be published December 2nd.

Have a healthy and happy Thanksgiving!

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