

EPI Update for Friday, July 25, 2014
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Nationwide voluntary recall of fruits: possible *Listeria monocytogenes***
- **Laboratory exposure to *Francisella tularensis***
- **Hand sores and history of sheep/goat exposure? Think Orf virus.**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Nationwide voluntary recall of fruits: possible *Listeria monocytogenes*

Wawona Packing Company of Cutler, California has voluntarily recalled certain lots of whole peaches (white and yellow), nectarines (white and yellow), plums and pluots (plum-apricot hybrid) packed between June 1, 2014 through July 12, 2014 due to the potential of the products being contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. No other products are impacted by this recall. To date, no illnesses have been linked to this recall.

Listeriosis, caused by eating food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, primarily affects older people, pregnant women, newborns, and adults with weakened immune systems. The clinical features can include fever, headache, muscle aches, diarrhea or other gastrointestinal illness. Infection during pregnancy can lead to miscarriages and stillbirths.

The risk of listeriosis after exposure to *L. monocytogenes* is very low; although exposure is common, disease is rare. No testing or treatment is indicated for an asymptomatic person with elevated risk of invasive listeriosis who ate a product recalled because of *L. monocytogenes* contamination. Patient management decisions for asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic persons are made on a case-by-case basis, informed clinical judgment, and the likelihood of exposure of the patient.

For more information on listeriosis, visit www.cdc.gov/listeria/.

Laboratory exposure to *Francisella tularensis*

IDPH and local public health recently investigated tularemia in a patient with a known tick bite. This investigation found that in a lab, the bacteria isolate was manipulated outside of a biosafety cabinet. Because of the risk of infection, it was recommended these lab workers receive antibiotic prophylaxis.

This serves as a reminder to laboratories to review their procedures in handling cultures of possible *Francisella tularensis*. Both patient isolates and quality control strains should always be worked with inside an operational, certified, biosafety cabinet using BioSafety Level II practices. For more information on guidelines for safe work practices in human and animal medical diagnostic laboratories, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/other/su6101.pdf. Information on CDC/APHL laboratory biosafety competencies for the BSL-2, BSL-3, and BSL-4 laboratories may be found at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/other/su6002.pdf.

Hand sores and history of sheep/goat exposure? Think Orf virus.

Sore mouth, or contagious ecthyma, is a viral infection caused by Orf virus (a member of the poxvirus family). Sore mouth is primarily an infection of sheep and goats, and is commonly found in animals throughout the U.S (including Iowa). Sores are typically found on the lips, muzzle, and in the mouth of infected animals. The animals usually recover completely without treatment within a month.

Rarely, people can be infected with the Orf virus when they come in contact with infected animals or equipment. The Orf virus can cause painful sores (usually on the hands) which can last for two months and usually heal without scarring. People do not infect other people. Consider Orf virus when patients present with sores (that are not responding to antibiotic therapy) and a history of sheep or goat exposure. Currently, there is no approved treatment for Orf virus infection.

Advise patients who have frequent contact with sheep or goats to:

1. Wear non-porous (i.e. rubber or latex) gloves when handling sheep or goats, especially when they have an open cut or sore on their hands and are handling the animals mouth/muzzle area.
2. Practice good hand hygiene by washing with clean, warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds (or use a waterless alcohol-based hand rub when soap is not available and hands are not visibly soiled).

For additional information on Orf virus, visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/orf_virus/.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

“What Does Infection Prevention Mean for Long Term Care Facilities” conference (sponsored by IDPH) on Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center in Johnston. Registration is FREE and includes training materials, nursing CEUs and a certificate of completion. To register, visit www.trainingresources.org/EventRedirect.aspx?eventId=4459.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy (and cooler) week!

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