

**EPI Update for Friday, October 5, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Multi-state outbreak of fungal meningitis**
- **TB screening procedures - amended**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Multi-state outbreak of fungal meningitis

As of October 5th, a multi-state fungal meningitis outbreak has identified 47 cases in seven states, including five deaths. The cases are linked to steroid vials for injections designed to treat back pain. It is expected more illnesses will occur because it can take weeks for symptoms to appear. The disease does not spread from person-to-person. By FDA report, no healthcare providers in Iowa received the recalled vials, and there have been no cases reported in Iowa thus far.

Those who have recently received steroid injections for back pain and experience fever, headache, or a stiff neck should seek medical care immediately.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/meningitis/fungal.html#symptoms.

TB screening procedures - amended

Changes are being made to Iowa administrative rules regarding TB testing; these are consistent with CDC recommendations. These changes will primarily affect requirements and procedures for TB screening and testing at licensed Iowa hospitals, as well as health care workers and residents of licensed Iowa healthcare facilities. For most hospitals and healthcare facilities, the new rules will substantially diminish the frequency of testing of Iowa healthcare workers. A final vote will be taken at the November Board of Health meeting. (Changes have already been approved for substance abuse facilities.)

For more information, see www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/ACO/IAC/LINC/10-03-2012.Bulletin.pdf, pages 673-677.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

2012 Influenza Teleconference/Webinar for Individuals Working in Hospitals, Clinics, Laboratories & Infection Control on Thursday, October 11, 2012, 12:00pm – 1:00pm. An update will be given on influenza activity, medications, vaccine, laboratory testing, and using the state influenza and respiratory viruses report. For more information, visit www.shl.uiowa.edu/educationoutreach/conferencesevents/influenza/.

Have a healthy and happy week! Enjoy the cooler weather!

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