



**Epi Update for Friday, October 26, 2018**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **ACIP recommends Hepatitis A vaccine for the homeless**
- **Pumpkin patch and apple orchard safety**
- **World Polio Day**
- **October 21-27 is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week**
- **In the news: Adenovirus outbreak kills seventh child at New Jersey medical center**
- **In the news: CDC asks pet owners not to dress chickens up for Halloween this year**
- **Infographic: Get a kit. Make a plan. Be prepared.**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**ACIP recommends Hepatitis A vaccine for the homeless**

This week CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted unanimously to recommend routine hepatitis A vaccination for any person 1 year and older who is homeless. Since March 2017, CDC has provided assistance to 12 states (MA, MI, OH, IN, NC, KY, TN, MO, AR, UT, CA, WV) experiencing hepatitis A outbreaks involving persons who are homeless and/or use injection and non-injection drugs. It is anticipated that CDC will likely approve ACIP's recommendation. The vaccine first became available in 1995 and there are three licensed versions in the United States.

As reminder, hepatitis A vaccination is currently recommended for:

- All children at age 1
- Travelers to countries that have high rates of hepatitis A
- Family members and caregivers of recent adoptees from countries where hepatitis A is common
- Men who have sexual contact with men
- People who use recreational drugs, whether injected or not
- People with chronic (lifelong) liver diseases, such as hepatitis B or hepatitis C
- People who are treated with clotting-factor concentrates
- People who work with hepatitis A infected animals or in a hepatitis A research laboratory

For more information, visit [wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual/Home/CategoryID/83](http://wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual/Home/CategoryID/83).

**Pumpkin patch and apple orchard safety**



Many Iowans visit pumpkin patches, apple orchards and farms during the fall. These trips can be fun and educational, but do have risks. Pathogens such as *E. coli*, *Cryptosporidium* and many others can be spread by farm and animal contact or consumption of unpasteurized milk, juice and cider.

Here are tips to remember when visiting pumpkin patches, farms and orchards:

- Wash apples and other produce before eating them
- Make sure any milk, juice or cider you drink has been pasteurized. If you are unsure, check the label or ask if the product has been pasteurized.
- Wash your hands with warm water and soap before eating and after visiting the farm, patch or orchard.

If someone believes they may have become ill due to consuming any food or drink, they can call 1-844-IowaSic. This reporting helps IDPH identify potential outbreaks and helps guide investigations by the Department of Inspections and Appeals' Food and Consumer Safety Bureau.

For more information, visit [idph.iowa.gov/cade/foodborne-illness](http://idph.iowa.gov/cade/foodborne-illness).

### **World Polio Day**

World Polio Day (October 24) is a chance for the global community to renew its commitment to the eradication of polio. Only one human disease has ever been successfully eradicated (smallpox) and such an achievement requires a significant, sustained and coordinated commitment by health agencies around the world. In 2017, there were only 22 cases of wild poliovirus reported in Afghanistan and Pakistan. There has not been a case of polio in the United States since 1979 and every child in the U.S. should receive 4 doses of the inactivated polio vaccine at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6-18 months and 4-6 years, with a minimum interval of 4 weeks between doses. Notably, the recent increase in acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), a syndrome associated with polio in the past, is not due to infections with poliovirus.

For more information, visit [wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual/Home/CategoryID/102](http://wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual/Home/CategoryID/102).

### **October 21-27 is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week**

The IDPH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is kicking off an awareness campaign to promote testing toddlers for lead and recognizing lead hazards in the home. We have updated a number of our brochures, which are available on our web page for use by healthcare providers.

Most childhood lead exposure in Iowa occurs in toddlers between 1 and 4 years of age. All Iowa children should be tested for lead exposure at 12 and 24 months old, regardless of risk. Children at higher risk need additional testing through 5 years of age. Please consider if a blood lead test is needed whenever a young



child presents for medical care if there is not a record in the chart of a test in the past year. If the result comes back at 10 mcg/dL or greater on a capillary test, get a venous confirmation test as soon as possible to confirm or rule out a lead exposure.

For more information, call 800-972-2026 or visit [idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention/Resources](http://idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention/Resources).

**In the news: Adenovirus outbreak kills seventh child at New Jersey medical center**

[www.cbsnews.com/news/adenovirus-outbreak-kills-seventh-child-at-new-jersey-medical-center-today-2018-10-24-live-updates/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/adenovirus-outbreak-kills-seventh-child-at-new-jersey-medical-center-today-2018-10-24-live-updates/)

**In the news: CDC asks pet owners not to dress chickens up for Halloween this year**

[www.kcci.com/article/cdc-asks-pet-owners-not-to-dress-chickens-up-for-halloween-this-year/23895007](http://www.kcci.com/article/cdc-asks-pet-owners-not-to-dress-chickens-up-for-halloween-this-year/23895007)

**Infographic: Get a kit. Make a plan. Be prepared.**



To view in full size, visit [www.cdc.gov/phpr/zombie/posters.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/zombie/posters.htm).

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

The Public Health Law Academy is offering a class on Legal Epidemiology, which provides a scientific approach to studying the impact and effectiveness of laws on health. It is intended for public health practitioners, public health lawyers, policy analysts and epidemiologists. After this training, participants will be able to explain how law affects health, define and describe basic legal epidemiology



principles, and apply legal epidemiology in practice. To access the training, visit [changelabsolutions.org/phla/intro-legal-epidemiology](https://changelabsolutions.org/phla/intro-legal-epidemiology).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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