

Epi Update for Friday, March 8, 2019
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Influenza activity increases and first pediatric death reported**
- **CDC calls for more staph prevention efforts**
- **In the literature: Measles, mumps, rubella vaccination and autism - A nationwide cohort study**
- **In the news: Measles vaccines protect against more than just measles. Here's how.**
- **In the news: Why the number of Americans with Alzheimer's could more than double by 2050**
- **Infographic: Staph infections – Progress is slow but success is possible**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Influenza activity increases and first pediatric death reported

Influenza activity this season has not been as high as last season, but with the predominance of influenza A(H3) viruses in the last three weeks, many measures of activity have increased. Since mid-January, over 20 percent of rapid tests reported to the Iowa Influenza Laboratory Survey were positive, and in the last two weeks over 30 percent were positive. Twenty-five schools reported at least 10 percent illness last week, which is above the last season's high.

Outpatient influenza-like illness has been above the baseline of 1.6 percent for the last six weeks, and more than half of the 32 long-term care influenza outbreaks reported this season began in February. Almost 60 percent of the 449 influenza-related hospitalizations reported this season occurred in the last four weeks, and more than half of the 20 influenza-related deaths reported this season occurred in the last two weeks.

This week, the first pediatric influenza-associated death of this season was reported and serves as a very unfortunate reminder of the seriousness of influenza and the importance of vaccination (vaccine is still available).

To view this week's influenza report, visit idph.iowa.gov/influenza/reports.

CDC calls for more staph prevention efforts

In 2017, more than 119,000 people suffered from bloodstream *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph) infections in the U.S. and nearly 20,000 died. Staph is either methicillin-resistant (MRSA) or methicillin-susceptible (MSSA). While current recommendations have reduced MRSA transmission in healthcare settings, progress has slowed (U.S. rates of hospital-onset MRSA infections dropped 17% each year until 2013).

Recent data suggest MSSA rates are not declining and may be rising in communities. The rise of staph infections in communities may be connected to the opioid crisis. In 2016, 9% of all serious staph infections happened in people who inject drug (rising from 4% in 2011).

Healthcare providers can reduce staph by:

- Following recommendations for preventing device- and procedure-related infections.

- Using Contact Precautions (gloves and gowns) for resistant infections. Considering actions like screening high-risk patients and decolonization of germs during high-risk periods, such as intensive care unit (ICU) stays, surgery, or device use.
- Treating infections appropriately and rapidly if they do occur.
- Educating patients about ways to avoid infection and spread, and about early signs of sepsis.

Please educate patients on how they can reduce staph by:

- Keeping hands clean and covering wounds.
- Avoid sharing items that contact skin, such as towels, razors, and needles.
- Watching for signs of infection and its complications, like sepsis.
- Telling their future healthcare providers if they are diagnosed with a resistant

For additional information visit, www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/staph/.

In the literature: Measles, mumps, rubella vaccination and autism - A nationwide cohort study

annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2727726/measles-mumps-rubella-vaccination-autism-nationwide-cohort-study

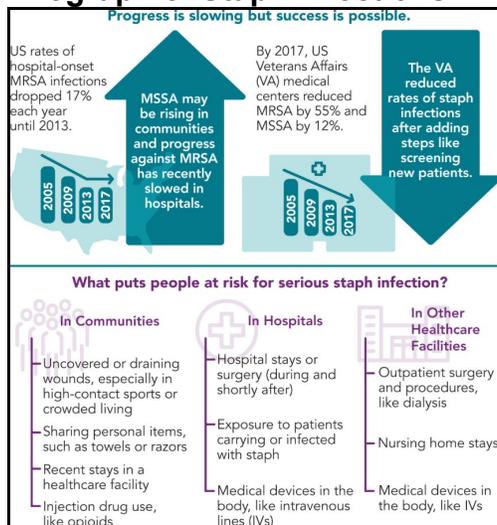
In the news: Measles vaccines protect against more than just measles. Here's how.

www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/03/measles-vaccine-protect-disease-immune-amnesia/

In the news: Why the number of Americans with Alzheimer's could more than double by 2050

www.pbs.org/newshour/health/why-the-number-of-americans-with-alzheimers-could-more-than-double-by-2050

Infographic: Staph infections – Progress is slow but success is possible



To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/staph/images/infographic-staph-infections.jpg.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Registration is open for the *2019 Immunization Summit*. The two-day event includes Pink Book training on June 19 and a conference highlighting various immunization topics and speakers on June 20. If you have questions, contact the Iowa Immunization Program at 1-800-831-6293. For more information and to register, visit register.extension.iastate.edu/immunization/about.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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