

Epi Update for Friday, June 14, 2019
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Laboratories: Please forward *Cyclospora* specimens to SHL**
- **Rabies: A forgotten killer**
- **FDA advisory on tattoo inks contaminated with microorganisms**
- **In the news: CDC activates emergency operations center for Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC**
- **In the news: How measles detectives work to contain an outbreak**
- **In the news: 10,000 steps a day? How many you really need to boost longevity**
- **Infographic: Then and Now – Changes in rabid animals reported**

Laboratories: Please forward *Cyclospora* specimens to SHL

IDPH is asking laboratories to send *Cyclospora*-positive specimens (including those tested via multiplex PCR) to SHL for further characterization. Cases and outbreaks of *Cyclospora* generally increase during the summer months and 204 laboratory-confirmed cases were reported to IDPH last year.

Sending *Cyclospora* specimens to SHL aids in outbreak detection and investigation. There is no fee for this additional characterization. Submitters will not receive a final report for this testing. Specimens may be submitted in Cary-Blair, Total-Fix, Proto-Fix, Eco-Fix or no preservative. Samples in formalin are not accepted. The preservative and diagnostic method used should be written on the submission form, which is available at www.shl.uiowa.edu/news/files/sendingcyclosporashl.pdf.

Rabies: A forgotten killer

Every 10 minutes someone in the U.S. is treated for possible exposure to rabies, accounting for about 55,000 people each year. About 5,000 animals (mostly wildlife) test positive for rabies each year in the U.S. Seven out of 10 Americans who die from rabies in the U.S. were infected by bats.

Any mammal can be infected with rabies, but in Iowa, rabies is most commonly identified in bats and skunks, accounting for 78% of the animals that have tested positive for rabies over the last 10 years (152 rabies positive bats and skunks out of 196 total mammals testing positive for rabies). Cats, cows and dogs are the next most commonly identified rabies-infected animals in Iowa.

Rabies is spread when virus from an animal's saliva or neural tissue gets through a person's skin via bite, contact to wounds, or contact with the eyes, nose or mouth. In addition, people known to be in the same room as a bat, but do not know for certain that they were not bitten or had direct contact with the bat, may have been exposed to rabies. This would include persons who awaken to find a bat in the room or children alone with a bat in a room.

IDPH provides 24/7 rabies consultation and receives about 500 rabies-related calls each year. IDPH can be reached at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours.

For more information about rabies, visit idph.iowa.gov/rabies/information-for-providers.

For IDPH's 2018 Rabies Summary, visit idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/33/2018%20Annual%20Rabies%20Report.pdf.

For CDC's recent Vital Signs about bats and rabies, visit www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/rabies/index.html.

FDA advisory on tattoo inks contaminated with microorganisms

The Iowa Department of Public Health regulates tattoo artists and establishments in the state of Iowa. In May, the FDA issued a safety alert regarding tattoo inks contaminated with microorganisms. Several products have been recently voluntarily recalled because they are contaminated with microorganisms. The FDA is alerting consumers, tattoo artists and retailers of the potential serious injury that could result from the use of tattoo ink contaminated with bacteria. These contaminated inks can cause infection and lead to serious health injury when injected into the skin during a tattoo procedure.

Consumers interested in getting a tattoo should ask the tattoo artist and studio about the inks they use and avoid all the recalled inks below. Consumers who have experienced symptoms of infection after the administration of a tattoo should inform their health care provider and their tattoo artist. The FDA will continue to work with manufacturers and retailers to remove contaminated products from the market; however, we ask that all tattoo artists check the ink they are using to make sure it is not on the list of recalled inks below.

The following tattoo inks have been voluntarily recalled because they are contaminated with microorganisms:

- Scalpaink SC, Scalpaink PA, and Scalpaink AL basic black tattoo inks manufactured by Scalp Aesthetics (all lots distributed from 8/6/2018 through 10/1/2018) – Recall Completion Date 5/17/2019
- Dynamic Color - Black tattoo ink manufactured by Dynamic Color Inc (lots 12024090 and 12026090)
- Solid Ink-Diablo (red) tattoo ink manufactured by Color Art Inc. (dba Solid Ink) (dba Antone's Ink) (lot 10.19.18)

For more information on this important safety advisory, visit <https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetics-recalls-alerts/fda-advises-consumers-tattoo-artists-and-retailers-avoid-using-or-selling-certain-tattoo-inks>.

In the news: CDC activates emergency operations center for Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/p0612-ebola-operations-center.html>

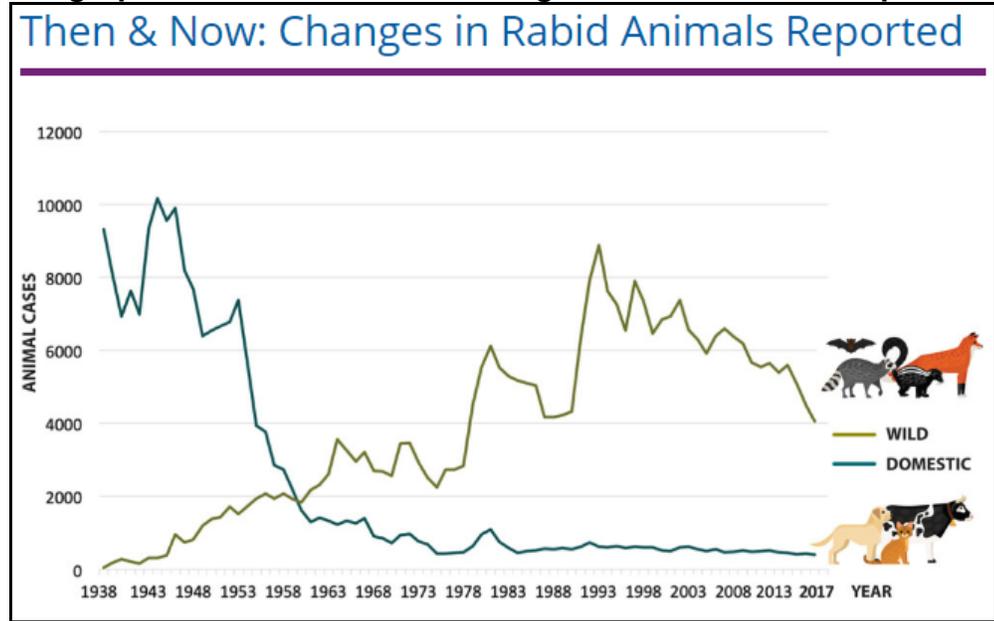
In the news: How measles detectives work to contain an outbreak

khn.org/news/how-measles-detectives-work-to-contain-an-outbreak/

In the news: 10,000 steps a day? How many you really need to boost longevity

www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/05/29/727943418/do-you-really-need-10-000-steps-per-day

Infographic: Then and Now – Changes in rabid animals reported



To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/rabies/index.html#.

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

800-362-2736