

**Epi Update for Friday, July 26, 2019**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**Items for this week's Epi Update include:**

- **Chlamydia and gonorrhea cases continue to increase in Iowa**
- **CDC, ACIP update Japanese encephalitis vaccination guidelines**
- **World Hepatitis Day - July 28<sup>th</sup>**
- **Program area spotlight: Hospital associated infections (HAI)**
- **In the news: What tick saliva does to the human body**
- **In the news: Simple ways to prevent falls in older adults**
- **In the news: Exposure to nature could help fight junk food cravings**
- **Infographic: Clinicians - Timing is key for AFM**

**Chlamydia and gonorrhea cases continue to increase in Iowa**

Preliminary data for 2019 indicate a continued increase in two of the most commonly reported conditions in Iowa, chlamydia and gonorrhea. For the period of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, there were 7,730 cases of chlamydia reported to IDPH. This represents a 9.6 percent increase from the same time period in 2018. Gonorrhea cases for this time period in 2019 are at 2,572. This represents a 14.6 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018.

IDPH encourages adherence to CDC screening and treatment guidelines to ensure that individuals who are infected are diagnosed and properly treated.

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/default.htm>

**CDC, ACIP update Japanese encephalitis vaccination guidelines**

Japanese encephalitis, a mosquito-borne flavivirus, occurs throughout most of Asia and parts of the western Pacific. Approximately 20-30 percent of patients die, and 30-50 percent of survivors have long-term sequelae. No antiviral treatment is available.

All travelers to countries where Japanese encephalitis is endemic should be advised to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Most travelers to endemic countries are at very low risk for Japanese encephalitis. Factors that increase risk include:

- traveling for a longer period (e.g.,  $\geq 1$  month)
- travel during the JE virus transmission season
- spending time in rural areas
- participating in extensive outdoor activities
- staying in accommodations without air conditioning, screens, or bed nets.

Inactivated Vero cell culture–derived vaccine (Ixiaro [JE-VC]) is the only licensed Japanese encephalitis vaccine available in the U.S. and is licensed for use in persons aged  $\geq 2$  months. The decision about whether to vaccinate for Japanese encephalitis should be individualized and consider:

- the risks related to the specific travel itinerary
- the likelihood of future travel to endemic countries
- the high morbidity and mortality of Japanese encephalitis
- the availability of an effective vaccine

- the possibility (but low probability) of serious adverse events after vaccination
- the traveler's personal perception and tolerance of risk.

Japanese encephalitis vaccine is not recommended for travelers at low risk, such as shorter-term travel to urban areas or outside of Japanese encephalitis virus transmission season.

For full recommendations, visit

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/rr/rr6802a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr6802a1\\_e&deliveryName=USCDC921-DM4987](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/rr/rr6802a1.htm?s_cid=rr6802a1_e&deliveryName=USCDC921-DM4987).

### **World Hepatitis Day - July 28<sup>th</sup>**

An estimated 257 million people live with chronic hepatitis B and 71 million people live with chronic hepatitis C worldwide. Viral hepatitis causes more than one million deaths globally each year. Hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are the most common types of viral hepatitis in the United States.

An online hepatitis risk assessment has been developed (based on CDC recommendations for the United States) which will provide individualized recommendations for testing and/or vaccination for hepatitis A, B, or C. To access the assessment visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/riskassessment/index.htm>

### **Program area spotlight: Hospital associated infections (HAI)**

The HAI team at IDPH is dedicated to reducing the risk for healthcare associated infections and multi-drug resistant organisms. The team leads outbreak response investigations, which include infections caused by antibiotic resistant pathogens. Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) was made a reportable condition in 2017, and 30 reported CRE cases were investigated in 2018. The HAI team has also partnered with the Iowa Hospital Association and the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative to promote antibiotic stewardship practices.

The team conducts infection prevention consultations in health care settings utilizing the CDC Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) tool. To date, 249 ICAR consultations have been conducted at hospitals, long-term care facilities, and outpatient facilities across the state. Education and training for healthcare professionals is provided via the annual *Iowa Infection Prevention and Control Conference*, regional meetings, and in-person training for long-term care and acute care infection preventionists.

Data from the National Healthcare Safety Network, CDC, and healthcare partners such as Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals is used to focus prevention efforts.

For more information about the HAI team, visit [idph.iowa.gov/hai-prevention](http://idph.iowa.gov/hai-prevention).

### **In the news: What tick saliva does to the human body**

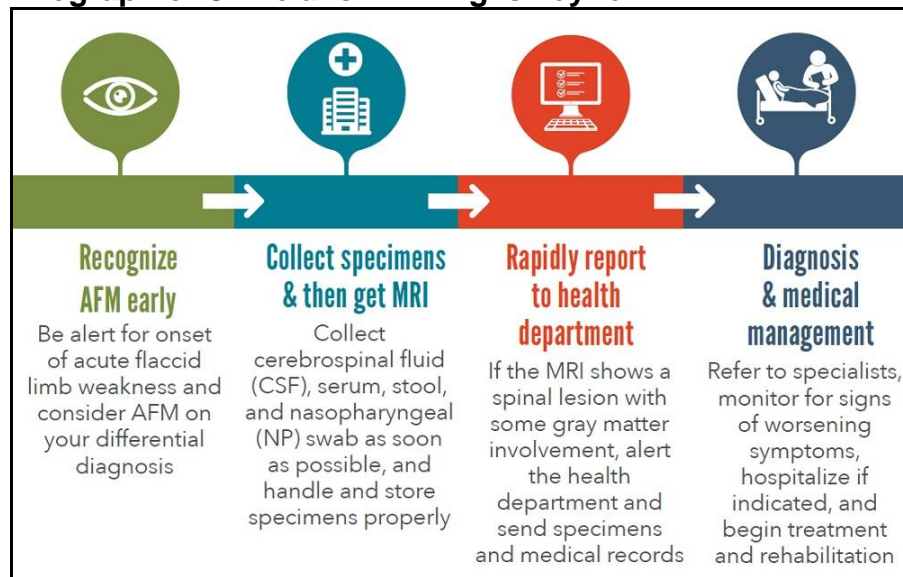
[www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/07/the-marvels-of-tick-saliva/594652/](http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/07/the-marvels-of-tick-saliva/594652/)

### **In the news: Simple ways to prevent falls in older adults**

[www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/07/14/741310765/simple-ways-to-prevent-falls-in-older-adults](http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/07/14/741310765/simple-ways-to-prevent-falls-in-older-adults)

**In the news: Exposure to nature could help fight junk food cravings**  
[www.newsweek.com/junk-food-smoking-craving-nature-1450277](http://www.newsweek.com/junk-food-smoking-craving-nature-1450277)

**Infographic: Clinicians - Timing is key for AFM**



To view in full size, visit [www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/afm/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/afm/index.html).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**  
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