



# Epi Update for Friday, January 14, 2022

**Office of the Public Health Medical Director  
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)  
Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis**

## **Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

Omicron variant update

Mandatory reporting orders renewed: CP-CRE, *C. auris*, AFM, MIS-C

Study: Pregnant women high risk influenza group, vaccination and antivirals key

In the news: CDC study shows flu vaccination prevents severe flu illness in U.S. children

### **Omicron variant update**

As of the morning of January 12, a total of 267 Omicron variants have been identified in Iowa. Overall, 62.1% of specimens sequenced with collection dates in a two week period ending January 8 were Omicron variants.

For additional information about Omicron, visit:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/omicron-variant.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/omicron-variant.html).

### **Mandatory reporting orders renewed: CP-CRE, *C. auris*, AFM, MIS-C**

Several IDPH standing reporting orders were recently renewed, requiring health care providers and laboratories to continue to report these conditions and organisms to public health.

Positive detections of carbapenemase producing organisms (CP-CRE) and *Candida auris* remain reportable in Iowa. Detailed guidance on reporting the detection of these organisms in diagnostic samples can be found at <https://idph.iowa.gov/hai-prevention>.

Health care providers are also required to report suspected or confirmed cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) within 3 days of case identification. CDC began tracking AFM in August of 2014. Since then, a total of 673 confirmed cases have been identified across the U.S. In 2021, there were 23 confirmed cases from 54 reports of patients under investigation nationwide. Two cases of AFM were reported in Iowa in 2018, and no cases were identified in 2019 or 2020. One suspect case is under investigation for 2021.

Also renewed for 2022 is the reporting order for multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C). Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, 77 cases of MIS-C have been reported to IDPH.

**Study: Pregnant women high risk influenza group, vaccination and antivirals key**

A recent study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* highlights that pregnant women are a high-risk group that benefit from influenza vaccination and early access to antivirals. The authors found that over nine influenza seasons, one third of reproductive-aged women hospitalized with influenza were pregnant.

The continued increase in influenza activity in Iowa highlights the importance of getting vaccinated. IDPH recommends that everyone 6 months and older get an annual influenza vaccine, especially those at high risk of serious complications or who come in contact with high-risk persons.

It is also important for people at high-risk and those who become very ill to talk to a health care provider about the need for antiviral influenza drugs. These drugs work best when taken as soon as possible after the onset of illness, at least within 48 hours.

To view the full study, visit [www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M21-3668](http://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M21-3668).

For more information about influenza vaccination and antivirals, visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/influenza/health-care-providers>.

**In the news: CDC study shows flu vaccination prevents severe flu illness in U.S. children**

[www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p0113-flu-vaccine-children.html](http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p0113-flu-vaccine-children.html)

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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