



# Epi Update for Friday, February 11, 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:

- **Upcoming changes to COVID-19 response in Iowa**
- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in commercial turkey flock in Indiana**
- ***Identifying Higher-Volume Antibiotic Outpatient Prescribers Using Publicly Available Medicare Part D Data — United States, 2019***

## **Upcoming changes to COVID-19 response in Iowa**

Governor Kim Reynolds has announced that Iowa's Public Health Disaster Emergency Proclamation will expire at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, February 15, resulting in operational changes related to the COVID-19 response.

The [coronavirus.iowa.gov](https://coronavirus.iowa.gov) and [vaccinate.iowa.gov](https://vaccinate.iowa.gov) web sites will be decommissioned on February 16. COVID-19 data will continue to be reported at [idph.iowa.gov](https://idph.iowa.gov), including information about positive tests, variants, deaths, and more. Vaccination data will also be made available. In addition, Iowa data will continue to be represented alongside national data made available by CDC and CMS.

Also starting February 16, negative COVID-19 test results will no longer be reportable in Iowa. Positive COVID-19 tests remain reportable, consistent with other reportable diseases in the state. As always, at-home tests do not need to be reported to IDPH if the testing is not associated with a laboratory or a health care provider.

## **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in commercial turkey flock in Indiana**

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been identified in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana. Avian influenza viruses are classified as either Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) or High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) based upon the severity of disease they cause in domestic poultry (this designation is not related to whether the virus causes illness in humans). No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the U.S., and avian influenza does not present an immediate public health concern. Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard flock to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds.

To access materials about biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and a toolkit, visit: [www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/df-resources/df-resources](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/df-resources/df-resources).

***Identifying Higher-Volume Antibiotic Outpatient Prescribers Using Publicly Available Medicare Part D Data — United States, 2019***

CDC released an MMWR on February 11 describing how publicly available Medicare Part D data can be used by public health organizations and health care systems to guide antibiotic stewardship interventions and optimize antibiotic prescribing to limit the emergence of antibiotic resistance while improving patient outcomes. Approximately 70% of Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare Part D, the prescription drug benefit program for adults aged ≥65 years and persons with disabilities or end-stage renal disease. *CMS Medicare Part D Prescribers by Provider* is a publicly available data set that contains prescriber-level aggregate counts of outpatient prescription drug events by three drug types (antibiotics, antipsychotics, and opioids) and provider characteristics, including names, National Provider Identifier, specialty (including prescriber type), and zip code. There is a 2-year lag in data availability, during which time prescription drug claims are finalized.

IDPH's Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Program is utilizing this data to analyze low-specific trends and target future outreach to improve antibiotic stewardship in Iowa. As the analysis is completed, findings will be posted on the IDPH web page.

To view the MMWR, visit

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106a3.htm?s\\_cid=mm7106a3\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106a3.htm?s_cid=mm7106a3_w).

Publicly available Medicare Part D data can be found at:

[data.cms.gov/provider-summary-by-type-of-service/medicare-part-d-prescribers/medicare-part-d-prescribers-by-provider](http://data.cms.gov/provider-summary-by-type-of-service/medicare-part-d-prescribers/medicare-part-d-prescribers-by-provider).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology  
800-362-2736

Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis  
515-281-6801