



Epi Update for Friday, August 20, 2021

**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:

- **Consider melioidosis in patients with acute bacterial infection that doesn't respond to normal antibiotics**
- **Peak West Nile virus season is here**
- **Rabies specimen submission guidelines**
- **CDC: COVID-19 vaccination safe, effective, recommended for pregnant people**
- **ACIP Authorizes Additional Vaccine Dose for Certain Immunocompromised Individuals**
- **HHS Releases plan for COVID-19 Booster Doses**
- **Infographic: Get a COVID-19 vaccine**

Consider melioidosis in patients with acute bacterial infection that doesn't respond to normal antibiotics

Four cases of melioidosis, including two fatal cases, have been identified in four different states (one each in Georgia, Kansas, Texas, and Minnesota). The cases include adults and children.

All four cases are closely matched by whole genome sequencing, suggesting a common source. The cases appear most closely related to strains found in Asia, particularly South Asia, even though none of the patients had traveled internationally. The most likely cause is an imported product (such as a food or drink, personal care or cleaning products, or medicine) or an ingredient in one of those types of products. More than 100 samples from products, soil, and water in and around the patients' homes have been tested and none have been positive for the bacteria which causes melioidosis.

Clinicians should watch for any acute bacterial infection that doesn't respond to normal antibiotics and consider melioidosis – regardless of international travel history. Although healthy people may get melioidosis, underlying medical conditions (including diabetes, liver or kidney disease, chronic lung disease, cancer or other immune compromising conditions) may increase the risk of disease. Most children who get melioidosis do not have risk factors. Clinicians should not rule out melioidosis as a possible diagnosis in children and those who were previously healthy and without known risk factors for melioidosis.

For more information about the recent melioidosis cases, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0909-melioidosis.html>.

For more information about melioidosis, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/melioidosis/index.html>

Peak West Nile virus season is here

August and September are peak times for West Nile virus in Iowa. So far in 2021, two confirmed human cases of West Nile virus have been identified and one additional case is currently under investigation. Eleven mosquito samples have tested positive for the virus.

The following steps can reduce the risk of exposure to mosquitoes:

- Use insect repellent with DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535.
 - Always read the repellent label and consult with a health care provider if you have questions when using these types of products for children.
 - For example, oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years old and DEET should not be used on children less than 2 months of age.
- Avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, shoes, and socks outdoors whenever possible.
- Eliminate standing water around the home because that's where mosquitoes lay eggs.
 - Empty water from buckets, cans, pool covers, and pet water dishes.
 - Change water in bird baths every three to four days.

West Nile virus remains a risk until the state's first hard frost.

For more information, visit idph.iowa.gov/cade/disease-information/west-nile-virus.

Rabies specimen submission guidelines

Health care providers and veterinarians are asked to share laboratory specimen submission guidelines with patients/clients who are submitting specimens for rabies testing. There are two laboratories in Iowa that perform rabies testing: Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa (SHL). Following the guidelines will increase the likelihood of the submitter receiving a valid rabies result.

Specimen submission guidelines for each laboratory are available at:

- Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory:
<https://vetmed.iastate.edu/vdl/submissions/guidelines/rabies>
- State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL):
<http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/rabiescollectioninstructions.pdf>

CDC: COVID-19 vaccination safe, effective, recommended for pregnant people

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including those who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant, or might become pregnant in the future.

Pregnant people are at increased risk of severe illness due to COVID-19, and evidence about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy has been growing. These data suggest that the benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks of vaccination during pregnancy.

There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems in women or men.

For more information, visit

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html.

ACIP Authorizes Additional Vaccine Dose for Certain Immunocompromised Individuals

CDC's independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine following their initial 2-dose vaccination series. Individuals can self-attest and receive the additional dose wherever vaccines are offered.

For additional information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>

HHS Releases plan for COVID-19 Booster Doses

Health and Human Services (HHS) has released a statement on the plan for COVID-19 booster doses starting 8 months after an individual's second dose. Booster dose administration could begin as early as the week September 20, 2021. At that time, the individuals who were fully vaccinated earliest in the vaccination rollout, including many health care providers, nursing home residents, and other seniors, will likely be eligible for a booster.

The authorized COVID-19 vaccines continue to provide stable and highly effective protection against hospitalizations and severe outcomes for people who are fully vaccinated. Vaccines remain the most powerful tool we have against COVID-19. It is critical that unvaccinated and partially vaccinated people get their primary series of vaccines to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 and its more severe outcomes. Nearly all the cases of severe disease, hospitalization, and death continue to occur among those not yet vaccinated at all.

For additional information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0818-covid-19-booster-shots.html>

Infographic: Get a COVID-19 vaccine

Get a COVID-19 vaccine

It's SAFE!

\$0.00 It's FREE!

It will help PROTECT you and your family!

You might get side effects. But you should FEEL BETTER in a few days.

Get the FIRST vaccine you can!

6 FEET

Keep taking basic prevention steps until you are fully vaccinated.

Learn more: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html

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To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/vaccines/Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine-508.pdf.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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