



# Epi Update for Friday, June 25, 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:

- **Medical, public health groups release statement on myocarditis, COVID-19 vaccination**
- **National HIV Testing Day, June 27**
- ***Cyclospora* infections on the rise in Iowa**
- **In the news: Nearly all COVID deaths in US are now among unvaccinated**
- **Infographic: HIV - Know your status**

**Medical, public health groups release statement on myocarditis, COVID-19 vaccination**  
HHS, in collaboration with CDC and many other medical and public health associations, recently released a statement regarding reports of mild cases of myocarditis and pericarditis following COVID-19 vaccination among younger people. The statement comes after a recent ACIP meeting regarding the topic.

The statement acknowledges concern and interest about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, while highlighting that these side effects are very rare and generally mild. They also note that these same side effects are even more common and severe as a result of getting COVID-19. The statement reiterates that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and they prevent COVID-19 illness. Vaccination is recommended for everyone age 12 and older who is eligible, as the benefits of vaccination far outweigh any harm.

To view the full statement, visit [www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/06/23/statement-following-cdc-acip-meeting-nations-leading-doctors-nurses-public-health-leaders-benefits-vaccination.html](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/06/23/statement-following-cdc-acip-meeting-nations-leading-doctors-nurses-public-health-leaders-benefits-vaccination.html).

## **National HIV Testing Day, June 27**

Sunday, June 27, is National HIV Testing Day. This date is important to the public health community not only as a reminder that everyone should get tested, but because it is valuable to note how far laboratory science has come since AIDS was first recognized in 1981. There was not an HIV test available until 1985, when the first HIV antibody test was introduced. The first test was designed to screen blood products - it only detected IgG, and a positive was only detected 6 to 12 weeks after a person acquired HIV. We are now on the fourth generation of antibody tests that can detect HIV 10 to 14 days after acquisition. Public health laboratories, including SHL, have been on the frontlines of this testing battle and have contributed greatly to the control of the HIV epidemic.

Biomedical advances have vastly improved the lives of persons living with HIV (PLWH). PLWH who are engaged in medical care can achieve an undetectable viral load. In addition to improving individual health, this also makes it impossible for the virus to be transmitted sexually. There is also a robust support system in place for PLWH to help better address their needs and empower them to achieve their goals.

To learn more, visit [www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/awareness/testingday.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/awareness/testingday.html).

### **Cyclospora infections on the rise in Iowa**

There has been a recent increase in cyclosporiasis cases reported to IDPH. To date, no Iowa-specific clusters have been identified, and cases are spread across the state. *Cyclospora* infections are most commonly reported in the summer.

Health care providers should consider cyclosporiasis in patients presenting with persistent watery diarrhea, loss of appetite, cramping, bloating, gas, nausea and fatigue. If untreated, symptoms can persist for several weeks to months. If cyclosporiasis is suspected, please collect a stool specimen and request *Cyclospora*-specific testing, either via acid-fast staining on an O&P or via PCR testing. Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) is the preferred and most effective treatment for *Cyclospora* infection.

Laboratories, please send *Cyclospora*-positive specimens (including those tested via PCR) to SHL for further characterization. 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, available at [www.shl.uiowa.edu/news/files/sendingcyclosporashl.pdf](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/news/files/sendingcyclosporashl.pdf).

For more information about cyclosporiasis, visit [www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/).

### **In the news: Nearly all COVID deaths in US are now among unvaccinated**

[apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-health-941fcf43d9731c76c16e7354f5d5e187](https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-health-941fcf43d9731c76c16e7354f5d5e187)

### **Infographic: HIV - Know your status**



To view in full size, visit

[www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/hiv-testing/learn-about-hiv-testing/who-should-get-tested](http://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/hiv-testing/learn-about-hiv-testing/who-should-get-tested).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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