



Epi Update for Friday, March 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:

- **Influenza and respiratory illness continues to increase in Iowa**
- **Stop HIV Iowa opening plenary presentation**
- **In the news: Why millions of genetically modified mosquitoes may be released in Florida and California**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Influenza and respiratory illness continues to increase in Iowa

The number and percent of positive influenza results reported by Iowa laboratories has increased every week since the week ending January 22, 2022. The current percent positivity of 12.3% is the highest it has been for the entire 2021-22 season. While this percentage is not high when compared to seasons before the COVID pandemic, comparing pre- and post-pandemic positive percentages may be problematic due to changes in testing practices. In addition to positive influenza tests, IDPH has also seen an increase in hospitalization rates and a return of influenza outbreaks in long-term care settings. Other respiratory viruses have been increasing since January 2022 or earlier as well.

Despite the decrease of COVID-19 in recent weeks, it is important to continue respiratory prevention steps to prevent other respiratory illness. Wash your hands regularly, stay home if you are ill, cover your cough and sneezes, avoid others who are sick, and wear a mask if advised by your health care provider or as needed to protect the health of those in your home.

For more information visit: idph.iowa.gov/influenza

Stop HIV Iowa opening plenary presentation

On January 27, 2022, the Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis launched the Stop HIV Iowa strategic planning process with a state-wide kick-off meeting.

The kick-off event was opened with a plenary presentation by Randy Mayer, Chief of the Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis. In case you missed it, a video of his plenary speech is now available for viewing.

Mayer welcomed participants by discussing national efforts to eliminate HIV and highlighting successes, opportunities, and challenges in our state. He then introduced the strategic planning framework we will use to develop a plan to stop HIV in Iowa.

Visit the Stop HIV Iowa planning website to watch the full plenary presentation and learn more about the strategic planning process at:

www.stophiowaplan.org/post/stop_hiv_iowa_plenary_video

In the news: Why millions of genetically modified mosquitoes may be released in Florida and California

news.yahoo.com/why-millions-genetically-modified-mosquitoes-231203565.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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