

**EPI Update for Friday, November 12, 2010
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Update on pertussis activity**
- **Prevent the spread of Norovirus**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Update on pertussis activity

Pertussis activity is continuing statewide, with higher levels of activity in southern Iowa. So far this year, 427 cases of pertussis have been reported, compared to 207 cases reported at the same time last year. Pertussis activity has a 4 to 5 year cycle; thus, we anticipate the number of cases to continue to increase over the next year or so. Many other states are also experiencing increased activity this year.

The age of the reported cases this year:

Child (ages 0-17) – 321 cases

Adult (ages 18-40) – 61 cases

Middle Age (ages 41-60) – 35 cases

Older Adult (ages 61-80) – 10 cases

Elderly (ages 81+) – 0 cases

It is important to note that adults typically have less severe symptoms and may present with atypical symptoms. This results in many adult with pertussis not seeking medical care, nor being diagnosed or reported; therefore, the above ages may not reflect the true distribution of illness occurring in Iowa.

Prevent the spread of Norovirus

Recently, many reports of norovirus activity have been received. This activity will probably continue to increase as more norovirus illness occurs in the winter months when people are indoors and in close contact.

Typically, norovirus infection causes one to two days of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps; fortunately, there are no known long-term health effects. Individual cases of norovirus are not reportable to public health, but all outbreaks, including norovirus outbreaks, are reportable. During norovirus-related outbreaks, thorough environmental cleaning, exclusion of ill individuals, and careful hand washing (with soap and water) is essential. Hand gels may not work against norovirus.

For more information about norovirus, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=Norovirus_factsheet

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

We wish everyone a healthy and nice fall weather week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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