

EPI Update for Friday, March 15, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Winter weather and winter illnesses continue**
- **RSV surveillance nationwide and in Iowa**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Winter weather and winter illnesses continue

Just like winter weather, the illnesses that normally circulate in winter are continuing to impact Iowans. Norovirus activity is ongoing, with three to five outbreaks being reported each week. Influenza viruses are also continuing to cause illness and hospitalizations across the state.

For more information on influenza activity in Iowa, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

For recommendations on norovirus control, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/blob.aspx?ObjID={24877C8F-4BA7-42D7-AE62-D1474E805FFF}.

RSV surveillance nationwide and in Iowa

A CDC article was recently published describing the last two RSV seasons in the U.S. Nationally, the 2011-2012 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) season lasted from mid-November through early April (21 weeks), peaking in late January. The 2012-2013 RSV season began in late October, slightly earlier than last season.

IDPH and SHL also work with laboratories across the state to track RSV activity. The number of RSV rapid tests performed each week and the percentage that test positive are published in IDPH's weekly flu report. According to IDPH data, Iowa's 2012-2013 RSV season began on the week ending November 17 and is ongoing. Including the 2012-2013 season, the five year average start of the RSV season in Iowa is early to mid-December.

For more information on CDC's RSV data, visit www.cdc.gov/MMWR/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6208a1.htm?s_cid=mm6208a1_w.

To view the weekly influenza report that contains RSV data, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

The *2013 Iowa Infection Prevention and Control Seminar* will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, May 7-8 at the Marriott Conference Center, Des Moines. The seminar is

geared toward physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals involved with infection prevention and patient safety.

To register, visit www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/UIConferences/.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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