

EPI Update for Friday, September 13, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Launch of a new public health tracking tool**
- **West Nile virus update**
- **New IDSS coordinator – Ngoc Tran**
- **Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Launch of a new public health tracking tool

Iowa Public Health Tracking (IPHT) is a state of the art environmental and public health tracking program, and part of a national initiative led by the CDC to “close the gap” in what is known about the impact of environmental hazards on health.

IPHT is a web-based system that tracks key environmental hazards and health problems statewide and in many instances, by county. The data will improve understanding of hazards and lead to actions that may prevent chronic illnesses. With IPHT, residents will be able to access both environmental data and health outcome data simultaneously, for example:

- Asthma, carbon monoxide, and heart attack hospitalization rates
- Air pollution trends for ozone and particulate matter
- Drinking water contaminants, such as arsenic, in public water systems
- Cancer rates
- Birth defect rates
- Childhood lead levels and the age of housing

For more information and to access the Iowa IPHT, please visit www.idph.state.ia.us/EHS/EPHT.aspx. To visit the CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, go to www.cdc.gov/ephtracking.

West Nile virus update

Extreme heat has kept many Iowans indoors for the past several weeks. With cooler weather on the way, remember that while mosquito activity may appear to be low because of the lengthy drought, cases of West Nile virus are occurring; 11 confirmed cases of West Nile virus have been reported so far this year (with no deaths). September is the peak of Iowa's West Nile virus season, and cases can continue to occur into October.

In 2012, 31 cases of West Nile virus were reported in Iowa. For more information on West Nile virus and to see a surveillance map of activity, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/CADE/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=West%20Nile%20Virus.

New IDSS coordinator – Ngoc Tran

Ngoc Tran (pronounced NOK-TRON) is the new Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) coordinator and is now the first point of contact for user account support and technical support. He can be reached at Ngoc.Tran@idph.iowa.gov or (515) 242-5114. To see as photo of Ngoc and learn more about him, visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/idss/intro_tran.pdf.

Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update

The new issue of the Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update is available at www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/Default.aspx#CR.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy (and cooler) week!

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