

Epi Update for Friday, November 4, 2016
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Feeling Queasy? Call, it's Easy!**
- **It's time for flu shots!**
- **Increase in hepatitis A "total" tests**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Feeling Queasy? Call, it's Easy!

A new food illness detection and response initiative has been launched to reduce the impact of reported foodborne illness in Iowa – the *IowaSic* hotline. This line is answered by trained specialists within CADE, who will ask about the nature of the illness, the symptoms experienced, and a complete history of foods consumed. Illness associated with food purchased from or consumed at food establishments will be investigated by staff in DIA's Food and Consumer Safety Bureau.

So, if you, your family or friends, or patients are feeling queasy after consuming an item from a restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, market or public gathering, call the *IowaSic* hotline at 1-844-IowaSIC or 1-844-469-2742. For more information, visit idph.iowa.gov/News/ArtMid/646/ArticleID/158137/New-Food-Poisoning-Detection-and-Response-Initiative-Announced or ia.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/.

It's time for flu shots!

For those who haven't already done so, now is a good time to receive your annual flu shot. Iowa's influenza season typically starts in November and peaks in January or February. It takes up to two weeks after vaccination for the body to develop full protection against the flu virus, thus being vaccinated now means protection before the flu activity increases and throughout the rest of the flu season.

Iowans over the age of six months are encouraged to receive the flu vaccine. It's especially important for those at higher risk of developing serious complications, such as pregnant women, children younger than two years old, older adults aged 65 years and older, and people with certain medical conditions like asthma, diabetes and chronic lung disease. Early laboratory data shows this year's vaccine is a good match for circulating strains of influenza. For more information about Iowa influenza tracking and monitoring, visit idph.iowa.gov/influenza/reports.

Increase in Hepatitis A "total" tests

There has been an increase in the number of hepatitis A "total" test results reported. A positive anti-hepatitis A virus (anti-HAV) "total" measures both IgG and IgM together, thus positive results indicate any one of the following conditions; 1) an acute infection, 2) a recent infection, 3) a past/resolved infection, or 4) immunity from vaccination.

Diagnostic tests for acute viral hepatitis, should include **IgM** anti-HAV tests, to confirm acute or recent hepatitis A infection.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

17th Annual Iowa Public Health Practice Colloquium— “Population Health: Finding Common Ground to Create Positive Change.” Registration is free and is requested by Friday, November 18th. [Register Now!](#)



Have a healthy and happy (and “try to stay cool even though it is November”) week!
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736