

EPI Update for Friday, August 17, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Pesticide poisoning in Marshall County**
- **Bats: beneficial to lowans, but unwelcome house guests**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Pesticide poisoning in Marshall County

In July, 35 farm workers in Marshall County were exposed to the fungicide, Headline, by a crop dusting plane. The workers were decontaminated in the field, and then transported to the Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center (MMSC) by bus for further decontamination and treatment.

Age range of the workers was 14 to 77 years. Of the 35 people, 7 (20 percent) were asymptomatic; 28 (80 percent) had symptoms of headache, nausea, vomiting, and upper respiratory irritation. There were no hospitalizations or deaths. Fortunately, all symptoms resolved quickly, and all of the patients were asymptomatic when released from MMSC.

Health care providers are reminded to contact the Iowa State Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222 for information on the treatment of patients who have been exposed to pesticides. Also, all cases of pesticide poisoning must be reported immediately to Iowa Department of Public Health by calling 800-972-2026.

Bats: beneficial to lowans, but unwelcome house guests

Bats are beneficial to lowans because they eat insects, including many farm pests. One bat can eat up to 2,000 insects per night! Unfortunately, many populations of bats have been destroyed and many species are now endangered.

The prevalence of rabies in bats is very low. However, most of the recent rabies cases in the United States have been caused by bat-associated rabies viruses, thus any bat should be considered a risk for rabies. Bat should be prevented from entering homes and everyone should avoid touching bats. Information on how to peacefully coexist with bats by "bat proofing" homes can be found through Bat Conservation International at www.batcon.org/home/default.asp.

If a sleeping person, a non-verbal child, or a mentally incapacitated person is found alone with a bat in the same room the bat should be tested for rabies. The exposed person should be treated with post exposure anti-rabies treatments if

the bat can not be tested, or if rabies test results are positive, indeterminate, or unsatisfactory.

For more information on rabies and post exposure treatment, see www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/rabies.asp. CADE is available by telephone for consultation 24/7 on rabies exposures at (800) 362-2736.

The University Hygienic Laboratory performs free tests of animals that might have exposed humans to rabies. Information on animal rabies testing can be found at www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/rabies_slip.pdf or by calling (800) 421-4692. Testing is also available through Iowa State University at a cost of \$35-45. Contact (515) 294-1950 for more information about ISU testing.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Save the dates!

Epi Update Fall Conference dates and locations
Region 1 – Marshalltown – Sept. 21, 2007
Region 2 – Mason City – Oct. 8, 2007
Region 3 – Cherokee – Oct. 11, 2007
Region 4 – Creston – Oct. 2, 2007
Region 5 – Ottumwa – Sept. 14, 2007
Region 6 – Cedar Rapids – Sept. 26, 2007

Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Training - Sept 12, 2007

Have a healthy and happy week!

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800-362-2736