EPI Update for Friday, July 20, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Chili recalled due to possible *Clostridium botulinum* contamination**
- **Extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR TB)**
- **University Hygienic Laboratory announces new director**
- **Epidemic Intelligence Service Application Deadline — Sept. 15**
- **Tick update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Chili recalled due to possible *Clostridium botulinum* contamination

Public health officials in Indiana and Texas, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are investigating an outbreak of botulism possibly associated with commercially-canned hot dog chili sauce. As of July 18, four cases of botulism have been reported to CDC from Indiana (2) and Texas (2). There are no known cases in Iowa so far. Food-borne botulism is a rare but serious paralytic illness caused by consuming foods that contain botulinum toxin, a nerve toxin produced by *Clostridium botulinum*.

CDC and the Food and Drug Administration are advising persons not to eat 10-ounce cans of Castleberry's Hot Dog Chili Sauce (UPC 3030000101), Austex Hot Dog Chili Sauce (UPC 3030099533), and Kroger Hot Dog Chili Sauce (UPC 1111083942) with "best by" dates from April 30, 2009 through May 22, 2009.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/botulism/botulism.htm.

Extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR TB)

There has been significant media coverage of XDR TB. Many people were surprised, thinking that TB was a thing of the past. This attention has fueled misconceptions about this complicated disease. Despite TB rates declining significantly in the U.S. since 1993, TB remains a major public health concern.

Drug susceptible (regular) TB, multiple drug resistant TB (MDR TB) and XDR TB are all spread in the same way – via the air when infectious persons cough, sneeze, speak or sing, and usually only after prolonged exposure. XDR TB is a relatively rare type of MDR TB. Both are resistant to the two most effective first-line drugs: isoniazid and rifampin. In addition, XDR TB is also resistant to the most effective second-line medications, fluoroquinolones, and at least one of three injectable drugs (e.g., amikacin, kanamycin, or capreomycin), thus making treatment very difficult.

XDR TB is an emerging threat to global public health. In the United States, 48 cases of XDR TB have been reported between 1993 and 2007. The 48 XDR-TB cases were reported from nine states, with the largest numbers in New York City (16 cases) and California (11 cases). No cases of XDR TB have been reported in Iowa.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there were almost half a million cases of MDR-TB worldwide in 2004. MDR-TB usually has to occur before XDR-TB arises. Wherever second-line drugs to treat MDR-TB are being misused, the possibility of XDR-TB exists. Research is being carried to learn more about XDR TB.

For more information visit:
www.cdc.gov/tb/XDRTB/default.htm

www.who.int/tb/xdr/faqs/en/index.html

www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/tb_control.asp

University Hygienic Laboratory announces new director
University of Iowa (UI) Vice President for Research, Meredith Hay this week announced the appointment of Christopher G. Atchison as director of the University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL), effective Aug. 1. Atchison has served as interim director at the UHL since October 2006.

Atchison is associate dean for public health practice and a clinical professor of health management and policy in the UI College of Public Health. He directs the college's Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness. He also chairs the University of Iowa Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Task Force. Prior to joining the UI faculty in 1999, Atchison served as director of the Iowa Department of Public Health from 1991 through 1998.

Epidemic Intelligence Service Application Deadline — Sept. 15
The Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) is a 2-year, postgraduate program of service and on-the-job training for health professionals interested in the practice of epidemiology. Former EIS Officers are working around the state of Iowa, at the state health department, UI Hospitals and Clinics and at the UI School of Public Health.

Application information and EIS Program details are available at www.cdc.gov/eis or by e-mail at eisepo@cdc.gov. The EIS Program telephone number is 404-498-6110.

Tick update

The Medical Entomology Laboratory at Iowa State University has recently produced a pamphlet entitled *"Ticks and Tick-borne Disease of Iowa."*

This publication helps Iowans understand what types of ticks and tick-transmitted diseases are in Iowa. It offers information (including images and distribution maps) on the three most common ticks found in Iowa, the time of year they are active, and the types of disease agents those ticks can transmit to humans and animals, with emphasis on Lyme disease. It also offers advice on how to avoid getting a tick bite and how to effectively remove a tick, if one should attach itself to you or your pet.

For more information visit:
www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=12612&SeriesCode=&CategoryID=&Keyword=2036

Meeting announcements and training opportunities
None.

Have a healthy and happy week! And keep cool!
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736