

EPI Update for Friday, March 22, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Agreement allows unused TB medications to be redistributed**
- **Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center available 24 hours a day**
- **Shingles vaccine use (including for those who have had shingles)**
- **Influenza update**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Agreement allows unused TB medications to be redistributed

The TB Control Program has entered into an agreement with the Iowa Prescription Drug Corporation (IPDC) to receive unused, previously distributed TB medications. Participation in the program will significantly reduce the waste of TB medications due to noncompliance. IPDC will certify TB medications as usable and return them to our contract pharmacy for redistribution.

Before returning unused medications to IPDC, health care providers or local public health agencies with unused TB medications should notify the TB control program at 515-281-8636 (bridget.konz@idph.iowa.gov) or 515-281-7504 (allan.lynch@idph.iowa.gov).

Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center available 24 hours a day

This week is National Poison Prevention Week, a great time to acknowledge the important, life-saving work done every day by the experts at America's poison centers. The Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center, serving all 99 counties in Iowa, managed over 54,000 inbound calls last year.

The Center is staffed by registered nurses and medical toxicologists, and provides treatment recommendations for people who have been exposed to pharmaceuticals, household products, chemicals, plants, mushrooms, vaccines, pesticides, heavy metals, snake bites, and food poisoning. About 90 percent of poison emergency calls from the public are treated safely and appropriately at home following the advice of poison center experts.

Iowa's poison experts are available 24 hours a day at 1-800-222-1222.

Shingles vaccine use (including for those who have had shingles)

Nearly one in three people will develop shingles during their lifetime and older people are at higher risk. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends those age 60 years or older get the shingles vaccine, but the FDA has approved the vaccine for use in those at least 50 years of age. Those who have had shingles can still receive the shingles vaccine to help prevent future occurrences of the disease.

For more information on shingles and the shingles vaccine, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/shingles/default.htm

Influenza update

Influenza activity is being downgraded from regional activity to local; thus, the weekly IDPH Flu Report will only report statewide activity. For the weekly Flu Report, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/idpharchive/archive.aspx?channel=flureports.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week! Happy Spring!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736