The WISCONSIN EPI EXPRESS provides a regular update on communicable disease issues of importance in our state and is intended primarily for participants in the public health surveillance system. Please let us know if the topics covered are on target or if there are others that we should be addressing. Thank you. Akan Ukoveninn MPH, Director, Bureau of Communicable Diseases and Preparedness

In This Issue:
1. Influenza Vaccination of Health-Care Personnel
2. The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Update is now an electronic publication
3. Cumulative Wisconsin HIV case surveillance data posted on the web
4. Health Care Facilities Make the “80% Club”
5. Wisconsin to Participate In Menactra® Effectiveness Study
6. 2006 Communicable Diseases Spring Seminars

1. INFLUENZA VACCINATION OF HEALTH-CARE PERSONNEL
A February 9 early release in CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) contains updated recommendations from the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on influenza vaccination of Health-Care Personnel (HCP) in the United States. These recommendations apply to HCP in acute care hospitals, nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, physician’s offices, urgent care centers, and outpatient clinics, and to persons who provide home health care and emergency medical services. The recommendations are targeted at health-care facility administrators, infection-control professionals, and occupational health professionals responsible for influenza vaccination programs and influenza infection-control programs in their institutions. Influenza vaccination rates of health care workers in the US have traditionally been low. But vaccination of particular personnel who are in critical positions and/or have close contact with patients is an important factor in influenza control in regular circumstances, and increases in importance in the event of a flu pandemic. The Guidelines are available on the internet at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr55e209.pdf.

2. THE WISCONSIN AIDS/HIV UPDATE IS NOW AN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION
The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Update, the quarterly publication of the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program, is no longer available in print. The first electronic edition (Winter 2006) of the Update is now available on the website of the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program at: http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/Update

To be notified of all future issues, please subscribe to the listserv for the Update. The listserv will be the only way we will notify you when future issues of the Update are published on the web. To subscribe to the Update listserv, follow the instructions on our website at: http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/Signup
3. CUMULATIVE WISCONSIN HIV CASE SURVEILLANCE DATA POSTED ON THE WEB
A comprehensive review of Wisconsin HIV case surveillance data reported through 2005 has been posted on the website of the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program at http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/Stats/AIDS_HIV_StatsRptss_Index.htm. Companion slides summarizing the review of Wisconsin HIV case surveillance data are located on this web page. The slides are available in both PowerPoint and PDF formats and can be downloaded and copied by following directions on the web page.

4. HEALTH CARE FACILITIES MAKE THE “80% CLUB”
During the 2005-06 influenza season, the Bureau of Communicable Diseases and Preparedness challenged Wisconsin hospitals and nursing homes to vaccinate at least 80 percent of their employees against influenza as a way to reduce transmission of influenza virus among their patients and residents. The Bureau is pleased to recognize the following health care organizations that achieved this important goal.

Aurora Medical Center of Manitowoc County
Two Rivers

Brewster Village
Appleton

Cornell Area Care Center
Cornell

Clairemont Nursing and Rehabilitation
Eau Claire

Door County Memorial Hospital SNF
Sturgeon Bay

Fairhaven
Whitewater

Fairview Home
Mauston

Gillett-Woodland Village
Gillett

Grancare
Fond du Lac

Greenway Manor
Spring Green

Hetzel Care Center

Nazareth House
Stoughton

Northpoint Medical and Rehabilitation Center
Oshkosh

Onalaska Care Center
Onalaska

Oregon Manor
Oregon

Osceola Medical Center
Osceola

Pine Valley Health Care and Rehabilitation Center
Richland Center

Rennes Health Care Center
Appleton

Rest Haven Health Care Center
Verona

Ridgeview Terrace Long Term Care
Reedsburg

Rusk County Memorial Hospital & Nursing Home
Ladysmith

Sacred Heart Hospital
5. WISCONSIN TO PARTICIPATE IN MENACTRA® EFFECTIVENESS STUDY

Meningococcal disease is relatively rare but has a case fatality rate of 10-14 percent. Sequelae such as neurological disability, loss of limbs, and hearing loss occur in 11-19 percent of cases. Infants and adolescents aged 11-19 have the highest incidence of meningococcal disease (CDC unpublished data, 2004).

CDC is currently conducting a post-licensure evaluation of the effectiveness of the new MCV4 (Menactra®) vaccine among adolescents. The vaccine protects against serogroups A, Y, C, and W135, but not against serogroup B. The study will also evaluate serogroup-specific effectiveness of MCV4 against serogroup C and serogroup Y meningococcal disease among adolescents. CDC is enlisting states that are funded sites for active bacterial core surveillance as well as volunteer states, such as Wisconsin, to participate in the study.

The study cohort is adolescents born after January 1, 1986 who are at least 11 years old and are diagnosed with meningococcal disease caused by the any of the vaccine-preventable serogroups (not serogroup B). Four controls will be identified for each case. Identification of controls and interviews will be performed by local, state or federal public health personnel, depending on the preferences of the local jurisdiction.

Susann Ahrabi-Fard, invasive bacterial disease epidemiologist, urges everyone to continue to report cases of meningococcal disease immediately to local public health agencies, and to submit Neisseria meningitidis isolates to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene for serotyping. “Efficient reporting will ensure the best possible data are being collected for this study,” says Ahrabi-Fard. “By participating in this study we hope to increase our knowledge of meningococcal disease transmission, prevention, and vaccine effectiveness.”

Please call Susann Ahrabi-Fard at 608-261-6955 to report cases fitting the study criteria.

Study criteria

- laboratory confirmed case of meningococcal disease (by N. meningitidis isolated from CSF, blood, or other normally sterile site)
- isolate is NOT serogroup B
- patient is born on or after January 1, 1986, AND is at least 11 years of age
6. **2006 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SPRING SEMINARS**

The one-day seminars will run from 8:15-3:45 with registration beginning at 7:45. The seminars will be held at the following sites:

- April 28 - Oconomowoc "Olympia Resort and Conference Center"
- May 10 - Minocqua "Waters of Minocqua"
- May 11 - Eau Claire "Best Western Trail Lodge"
- May 18 - De Pere "SC Grand"
- May 19 - Madison "Crowne Plaza"

Please note the **deadline for registration** is two weeks prior to each seminar.

These sessions will be recorded during the Madison seminar and you will be able to view them on Tuesday, May 23 via **Mediasite webcast** technology and can be accessed at [http://dhfs.wi.gov/webcast](http://dhfs.wi.gov/webcast).

The brochure can be found on the DHFS website [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/communicable/SpringSeminars.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/communicable/SpringSeminars.htm). Please follow directions on "how to register" through TRAIN.

If you are unable to register through TRAIN or for more information, please contact Shirley Bostock at 608-266-3451 or Donny Neuert at 608-266-3888.

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**Telephone Reporting of Unusual Disease Occurrences**

*Occurrences of diseases that are uncommon or atypical in Wisconsin, and outbreaks or clusters of disease which are identified, should be reported by phone as soon as possible, to (608) 258-0099. Reports may be made to this number on a 24/7 basis, but please do not use it for normal and routine disease reporting.*

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