



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

Subject: Invasive Meningococcal Disease
Date: August 17, 2016
Contact: Communicable Disease Unit (831) 454-4114

Outbreak of Invasive Meningococcal Disease involving Men who have Sex with Men in Southern California: Recommendations for Providers

Since March 2016, there have been 24 confirmed cases of serogroup C invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) -- including 2 deaths, among residents of Los Angeles and Orange Counties and the City of Long Beach. Of the 24 cases, 22 are men and of these, 19 identified as men who have sex with men (MSM). Persons with HIV infection are known to be at increased risk of invasive meningococcal disease, and two cases also had HIV infection. IMD results from infection with *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria, which can cause meningitis, bacteremia and septicemia. Transmission is via contact with respiratory secretions or aerosols or someone carrying the bacteria in their nasopharynx; usually by close or sexual contact. Transmission occurs more easily in households and other crowded or congregate setting where there is close contact with many others.

On June 22, 2016, the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that all persons with HIV infection who are two months of age or older be **routinely** vaccinated with meningococcal ACWY vaccine (MenACWY; Menveo[®] or Menactra[®]). NOTE: MenACWY is included on the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) formulary. Due to the outbreak in Southern California, the effected counties are recommending that all MSM (regardless of risk or HIV status) be vaccinated with MenACWY. Although serogroup B (MenB) vaccines are now available, serogroup B has not been associated with clusters or outbreaks among MSM.

Santa Cruz County Providers are advised to:

- Routinely vaccinate all HIV-infected patients with MenACWY.
- During this outbreak, vaccinate all MSM patients with MenACWY with risk factors:
 - Travel to Los Angeles or Orange Counties, or the City of Long Beach (to be effective, vaccination should occur ≥ 2 weeks prior to travel)
 - Regular close or intimate contact with multiple partners, those who seek partners through the use of online websites or dating applications; those who visit crowded venues such as bars, parties, etc.; and those who smoke cigarettes, marijuana or illegal drugs or spend time in smoky settings.

- Encourage HIV testing along with vaccination to all MSM patients whose HIV status is unknown or who have not been tested for HIV within the past year.
- Report all suspect and confirmed cases of IMD to the Santa Cruz County Communicable Disease Unit at our website: www.santacruzhealth.org/CDUnit or call (831) 454-4114.

For More Information:

- CDC Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine Information Statement:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/mening.pdf
- CDPH Health Advisory regarding the IMD Outbreak in Southern California:
www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDPH-MSM-mening-health-advisory-Aug16-2016.pdf
- Meningococcal Clinical Information:
 - CDPH – www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/MeningococcalDisease.aspx
 - CDC – www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/clinical-info.html

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.



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