



Health Advisory: Meningococcal Disease Among MSM

Minnesota Department of Health Thu Jul 16 2:35 CDT 2015

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, emergency departments, urgent care centers, pharmacies, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction, especially those that provide HIV testing or other services to men who have sex with men (MSM) and those that provide vaccinations.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to Infection Preventionists, Infectious Disease Doctors, and all other health care providers who might see patients who are MSM, especially those who are HIV infected.

Health care providers:

- Watch for symptoms of meningitis in MSM
- Recommend and provide meningococcal conjugate, 4-valent vaccine (MCV4) for all your MSM patients, especially those who are HIV-infected

On July 13-15, the Minnesota Department of Health in cooperation with the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office identified *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup C from the brain of an adult male found dead in his home. The decedent was known to be an MSM who was HIV-infected for at least several years.

In June-July, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) identified an outbreak of serogroup C meningococcal disease among MSM. Currently 7 cases, including 1 fatality, have been identified. A majority of the cases are HIV-infected. CDPH has worked with numerous community partners to offer free or low cost meningococcal vaccination for all MSM.

Although the case in Minnesota is not directly linked to the Chicago outbreak, it is entirely likely the bacterial strain is the same. Thus, MDH is advising all MSM who reside in or regularly visit the Twin Cities be vaccinated for meningococcal disease. HIV-positive individuals may be at higher risk for severe disease and death.

Persons who are HIV-infected should receive two doses of MCV4 eight weeks apart. Determination of HIV status may be necessary.

Clinics that see MSM patients should check their MCV4 vaccine supply and order additional doses as needed. Patients who are unable to pay for vaccination can be referred to clinics that serve persons who are un- or under-insured. A listing of these clinics can be found at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/adultvax/clinicsearch.html>

For more information about the meningococcal disease outbreak in Chicago or meningococcal vaccine see the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/index.html> or the MDH website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/meningococcal/index.html> or contact MDH at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414.