



Department of Health

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TO: Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Healthcare Facilities, Pharmacists, Local Health Departments (LHDs), HIV and Ryan White Providers and other Public Health Partners

FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC)

INFORMATIONAL MESSAGE: INVASIVE MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE IN MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

Please distribute to the Emergency Department, Infectious Disease, Primary Care, HIV Clinic, Family Medicine, Pharmacy, Medical Director, Director of Nursing, and all patient care areas.

- NYSDOH continues to coordinate with health departments across the country, as needed, regarding cases of serogroup C invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) among men who have sex with men (MSM). The last case of IMD among MSM in NYS occurred in NYC in December 2014 and was associated with meeting through an online website, digital application (“app”), or at a bar or party.
- Five cases of culture-confirmed serogroup C IMD have been reported by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) in the Chicago metropolitan area from May 12 – June 8, 2015. None involve New York State residents. Risk factors include men who have sex with men (MSM), HIV infection, and use of apps to meet anonymous sexual partners. CDPH issued vaccine recommendations in response to this cluster.
- NYSDOH continues to recommend meningococcal vaccine for persons at elevated risk for meningococcal disease.
 - HIV-infected patients should receive two doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine. Providers should recall any patients who have only received one dose.
 - HIV-infected individuals who do not have a provider or whose provider does not have vaccine can visit www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/resources/resource_directory/ to identify a site where they can be vaccinated and/or obtain care. Other individuals can visit <http://www.nysacho.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3713> to find contact information for their LHD, which may also have vaccine.

- Vaccine costs and administration for HIV positive individuals may be reimbursable through the New York State Medicaid program and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. LHDs can apply for reimbursement for other individuals at risk through their State Aid Application/ Article 6 reimbursement process.
- Facilities and providers must report vaccine doses administered to persons 18 years of age and younger to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) outside of NYC, or to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) within NYC. The NYSDOH strongly recommends that facilities and providers report all vaccine doses administered to persons 19 years of age and older to NYSIIS or the CIR, with the vaccinee's consent for reporting. Additional information is available at www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/providers.
- Providers are reminded to report immediately both suspect and confirmed IMD cases to the LHD where the patient resides. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation to report. Contact information for LHDs can be found at <http://www.nysacho.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3713>
- Clinicians with questions regarding vaccine recommendations should contact the Bureau of Immunization at 518-473-4437 or the AIDS Institute Office of the Medical Director at 212-417-4536. Providers with other questions should contact their LHD or NYSDOH BCDC at bcdc@health.state.ny.us or 518473-4439.