



Health, Housing & Community Services Department
Public Health Division
(510) 981-5300

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Health Officer

Health Advisory
April 17, 2014
Meningococcal Vaccine Recommendations
for Men Who Have Sex with Men

Please distribute to all providers in your practice

Current Situation

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has received reports of four men who have sex with men (MSM) with invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) in Los Angeles County since January 2014. Three of these men were HIV-infected and three died. All four men were infected with a vaccine-preventable serogroup of meningococcal bacteria.

LAC-DPH has recommended meningococcal vaccination for local HIV-positive MSM, as well as for local MSM regardless of HIV status whose activities put them at higher risk for infection. Higher risk activities include those who “regularly have close or intimate contact with multiple partners, or who seek partners through the use of digital applications, particularly those who share cigarettes, marijuana, or use illegal drugs.”

Orange, Riverside and San Diego Counties have issued provider alerts describing the Los Angeles recommendations and also referencing the Palm Springs White Party, which will take place April 25-28 and is billed as the largest circuit party in the world with approximately 30,000, primarily MSM, attendees.

Actions requested of clinicians who provide care for MSM:

- **OFFER Meningococcal vaccination to MSM and male-to-female transgender persons, regardless of HIV status, who expect close or intimate contact with MSM currently residing in, or traveling from Los Angeles County.** To achieve protection, vaccination should be completed at least 7-10 days prior to potential exposure.
- **Refer to ACIP** recommendations for guidance regarding vaccination of HIV-infected individuals (see link below).
- **Immediately report** any patient with suspected or confirmed meningococcal disease to Berkeley Public Health: (510) 981-5300. Do not wait to report until the diagnosis is culture-confirmed; any delay in reporting compromises the ability to identify close contacts and ensure they receive timely antibiotic prophylaxis.

Resources and Reference Materials:

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

- **Health Advisory:**
http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/MSM_meningococcal_vaccine_health_advisory_April15_2014.pdf
- **Meningococcal Disease Information:**
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/MeningococcalDisease.aspx>

City of Berkeley Public Health Division: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/publichealth>

CDC: ACIP recommendations for meningococcal vaccines:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6202a1.htm>