



Health, Housing & Community Services Department
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Health Advisory

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New vaccine recommendations to contain the outbreak of meningococcal disease

Please distribute to all providers in your practice

Current Situation:

On July 26, 2016 Los Angeles and Orange Counties, the City of Long Beach, and San Diego County expanded their prior risk-based recommendations for MenACWY vaccine to include all men who have sex with men (MSM) in these jurisdictions and any MSM who plan travel to these areas, regardless of risk or HIV status. The California Department of Health Advisory can be found here: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDPH-MSM-mening-health-advisory-Aug16-2016.pdf>

Background:

Since March 2016, 24 confirmed cases of serogroup C meningococcal disease, including two fatal cases, have been reported among residents of Los Angeles and Orange Counties and the City of Long Beach, most of whom were men who have sex with men (MSM). This is the largest meningococcal disease outbreak among MSM that has occurred in the United States to date.

Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccines (MenACWY) protect against serogroup C disease, the serogroup causing clusters and outbreaks among MSM, as well as against A, W, and Y disease. Although serogroup B (MenB) vaccines are now available, serogroup B has not been associated with clusters or outbreaks among MSM. Gay and bisexual men may be at increased risk of meningococcal disease if they have close or intimate contact with multiple partners, regularly visit crowded venues such as bars and parties, or smoke cigarettes, marijuana or illegal drugs.

New Recommendations are to administer MenACWY for:

- All MSM residing in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties and the City of Long Beach
- MSM residing outside of these jurisdictions who plan to travel to Los Angeles or Orange Counties or the City of Long Beach (to be effective, vaccination should occur ≥ 2 weeks prior to travel)
- All HIV-infected persons statewide

Transmission and Clinical Symptoms:

Meningococcal disease results from infection with *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria, which can cause meningitis, bacteremia and septicemia. Meningococcal bacteria are transmitted through close personal contact and can be spread from person to person by small respiratory droplets. Symptoms of meningococcal disease may include fever, vomiting, severe headache, stiff neck, confusion, rash (petechiae) and generalized muscle pains. Symptoms of infection usually occur within 3-7 days after exposure.

Resources:

- [Alerts and Advisories - City of Berkeley, CA June Health Meningococcal Advisory](#)
- Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease](#)
- Adults may locate meningococcal vaccines in their area by using CDC's [Adult Vaccine Finder](#).