

## Hot Tips: Public Health Advisory #129 Date: 6/8/2022

Please copy and distribute to ALL physicians at your location.

### ***Recommendation for Meningococcal Vaccine (MenACWY) for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)—Florida Meningococcal Outbreak***

There is an ongoing outbreak of serogroup C meningococcal disease in Florida, primarily among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM), including those living with HIV. Over the next months, MSM and transgender persons who have sex with men in California may have increased exposure to meningococcal infection from travel to Florida or attendance at events with MSM from around the country. CDPH encourages clinicians to offer quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine to MSM and transgender persons who have sex with men.

Our recent and ongoing experience with monkeypox has taught us that a disease that we expect to be limited and short-lived can surprise us and demonstrate sustained transmission in close-knit communities. This meningococcus outbreak could easily follow the same pattern. Geography has not limited the spread of this disease.

Clinicians should also be alert to the possibility that patients they are seeing who have one or more of the following symptoms: fever, petechiae, stiff neck, confusion, sudden onset of low blood pressure or outright shock may be presenting with meningococemia or meningococcal meningitis. Prompt antibiotic therapy may be lifesaving.

MSM have previously been at increased risk for serogroup C IMD, whether during 2015-2016 outbreaks in Southern California and other US urban areas, or outside of outbreaks. Over the next months, MSM and transgender persons who have sex with men in California may have increased exposure to meningococcal infection from travel to Florida or attendance at events with MSM from around the country, including but not limited to Pride events in June 2022.

#### **Vaccination Recommendations:**

CDPH encourages clinicians to offer MenACWY to MSM and transgender persons who have sex with men.

- MenACWY may be particularly beneficial for MSM and who plan to travel to Florida or to attend gatherings (especially crowded venues) with MSM and transgender persons who have sex with men from around the country.

- Persons with ongoing exposure whose most recent dose of MenACWY was at least 5 years ago should receive a booster dose of MenACWY.
- ACIP recommends MenACWY for adults with specific indications, including all persons with HIV infection (2-dose primary series 8-12 weeks apart, booster every 5 years).

Clinicians should immediately report suspected cases of IMD to the Ventura County Public Health Communicable Disease program, at 805-981-5201.

This bulletin is intended to improve the public health in our county by keeping physicians and nurses informed of noteworthy diagnoses, disease trends, and other events of medical interest. Another goal of a public health department is to educate. We hope that you will use this information to increase your awareness. Please allow us to continue in our role of speaking to the press so that we may maximize the educational message to the benefit of all citizens of Ventura County.