



Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
**Division of Disease Control**

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## **Health Advisory**

### **Meningococcal Vaccine Recommendations for Men Who Have Sex with Men**

#### **October 10, 2012**

New York City (NYC) is reporting an outbreak of meningococcal disease in men who have sex with men (MSM). Because of the proximity of NYC to Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) recommends meningococcal vaccine for HIV-infected men who are Philadelphia residents and who have had intimate contact with a man who was known to be from NYC, or could potentially be from NYC if contact was anonymous or otherwise not well known, since September 1, 2012.

#### **Outbreak Epidemiology**

NYC has identified 13 cases of serogroup C *Neisseria meningitidis* infection among MSM residing in NYC since 2010. In 2012, 8 cases were identified in NYC; no new cases have been reported since September 26, 2012. All cases were men between 21 and 59 years old. Eight cases are HIV-infected. Four patients have died, 3 of whom were HIV-infected. The approximate annual incidence rate in MSM is 5.8 per 100,000. In contrast, the rate of invasive meningococcal disease (all serogroups) in all other New Yorkers is 0.25 per 100,000.

There has not been a significant increase in Philadelphia cases of meningococcal disease, and no clusters or trends in age or sex have been identified thus far. Philadelphia had 4 cases of invasive *N. meningitidis* reported in 2011 and 4 cases reported thus far in 2012. Serotypes for the 2011 and 2012 cases included 3 type B, 3 type Y, 1 type X, and one non-typeable isolate.

#### **Vaccine and STD Screening Recommendation**

Based on the recent increase in cases and the high case fatality rate among HIV-infected MSM found in NYC, PDPH is extending the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene recommendation to Philadelphia residents and advises providers to administer meningococcal vaccine to HIV-infected men who had intimate contact (e.g. deep kissing, oral or anal sex) with a man who was known to be from NYC, or could potentially be from NYC if contact was anonymous or otherwise not well known, since September 1, 2012. Individuals who meet some but not all of these criteria are advised to discuss their need for meningococcal vaccine with their healthcare provider. In addition, screening for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including syphilis is encouraged for any of these men who have not been tested in the past 6 months.

Meningococcal vaccines protect against *N. meningitidis* serotypes A, C, W135, and Y. Menactra (Sanofi Pasteur) or Menveo (Novartis) conjugate vaccine should be used for adults  $\leq 55$  years of age. HIV-infected individuals should receive two vaccine doses, with the second dose administered eight weeks after the first dose and no less than six weeks. For individuals 56 years and older, one dose of Menomune (Sanofi Pasteur) polysaccharide vaccine is recommended.

#### **Vaccine Availability**

Patients may receive vaccine through their healthcare provider. If a patient's usual healthcare provider does not currently have vaccine, patients should visit Health Center #1 at 500 S. Broad St. (215-685-6571) for the vaccine.

**All administered vaccine should be reported in PDPH's KIDS Immunization Registry: <https://kids.phila.gov/>. Any suspected case of meningococcal disease should be reported immediately to PDPH by calling 215-685-6740 (business hours) or 215-686-4514 (after hours).**

*\*Please note that this health advisory is not related to the recent multistate outbreak of meningitis and stroke caused by potentially contaminated epidural steroid injections. This product was not distributed to any southeastern PA facilities.*

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Philadelphia Department of Public Health

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