

Health Update:

Update: Meningitis and Stroke Associated with Potentially Contaminated Product

October 5, 2012

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.health.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**FROM: MARGARET T. DONNELLY
DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT: Update: Meningitis and Stroke Associated with Potentially Contaminated Product

Earlier today (October 5), the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) issued a Health Advisory entitled "Meningitis and Stroke Associated with Potentially Contaminated Product." It is available at:

<http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/alertsadvories/pdf/advisory10512.pdf>

Since the time this Health Advisory was released, additional recommendations and resources for medical providers have become available, and are described in this Health Update.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now has a webpage entitled "Multistate Meningitis Outbreak Investigation" that includes information on the multistate outbreak of fungal meningitis in persons who received epidural steroid injections. This webpage includes, in addition to numbers/locations of cases and information for patients, instructions for diagnostic testing, and options for treatment of suspected cases.

The web address is: <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/meningitis.html>

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has also developed a webpage providing information and guidance on the outbreak entitled "FDA Statement on Fungal Meningitis Outbreak." Included here is a link to a list of recalled products related to the outbreak.

The web address is: <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm322734.htm>

Note particularly the following from the FDA webpage:

Investigation into the exact source of the outbreak is still ongoing, but the outbreak is associated with a potentially contaminated medication.

That product is preservative-free methylprednisolone acetate (80mg/ml), an injectable steroid produced and distributed by New England Compounding Center (NECC) in Framingham, Massachusetts. CDC's interim data show that all infected patients received injection with this product. As of Oct 3, 2012, NECC has voluntarily shut down.

FDA has observed fungal contamination by direct microscopic examination of foreign matter taken from a sealed vial of methylprednisolone acetate collected from NECC.

Out of an abundance of caution, FDA is taking the additional step of recommending that health care professionals and consumers not use any product that was produced by NECC at this time. In addition, FDA requests that health care professionals retain and secure all remaining products purchased from NECC until FDA provides further instructions regarding the disposition of these products.

In Missouri, cases of illness suspected of being associated with this outbreak should be reported to the local public health agency, or to DHSS at 800/392-0272 (24/7). Questions should be directed to DHSS' Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at 573/751-6113, or 800/392-0272.

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