



# San Mateo County Health System

Main number 650 573-2346 After hours 650 363-4981 Fax 650 573-2919

## PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY – March 24, 2015

### NOTICE TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS: RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING

### SEROGROUP B MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH OUTBREAK AT UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Six cases of serogroup B meningococcal disease, including one death, have been reported among University of Oregon students with onsets during January 13 – March 15, 2015. The outbreak is considered ongoing. Most of the cases involved meningococemia rather than meningitis, and many presented initially with nonspecific symptoms. Additional information is available on the Oregon Health Authority Website at

<https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/MeningococcalDisease/Pages/facts.aspx>.

The purpose of this advisory is:

- 1) to alert healthcare providers about the **potential for meningococcal disease to occur among University of Oregon students and staff traveling home to California for Spring Break from March 20 to March 29, 2015**
- 2) to ask healthcare providers to immediately report suspected cases of meningococcal disease to the San Mateo County Communicable Disease Control Program and
- 3) to provide information about PCR testing of isolates from serogroup B meningococcal disease cases at the California Department of Public Health.

#### **Actions requested of clinicians in San Mateo County:**

- 1) **Think about the possibility of meningococcal disease and promptly report to San Mateo County Communicable Disease Control Program.** Early case recognition among healthcare providers is critical. If a University of Oregon student or a person who has had close contact with someone from that university community develops a fever and headache or rash, meningococcal disease should be suspected. Cases may involve meningococemia rather than meningitis, and may present initially with nonspecific symptom. Empiric treatment should be considered. Blood and/or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) specimens should be collected and suspected cases should be reported to the San Mateo County Communicable Disease Control immediately. Call 650-573-2346 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. After hours, call 650-363-4981 and ask for the on-call Health Officer.
- 2) If there is a high degree of clinical suspicion for meningococcal disease, but CSF or blood specimens are sterile, consult with San Mateo County Communicable Disease Control to determine if specimens should be sent for **PCR testing** at the California Department of Public Health Microbial Diseases Laboratory.
- 3) For more guidance on recommendations for **prophylactic use of antibiotics in close contacts** of persons with meningococcal disease, go to:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6202a2.htm?s\\_cid=rr6202a2\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6202a2.htm?s_cid=rr6202a2_w)

At this time, there is no recommendation to change normal activity and/or to avoid contact with the affected university or its students and staff members. Good hygiene practices such as thorough handwashing, and coughing or sneezing into the arm are recommended.

While one of the licensed quadrivalent meningococcal vaccines is recommended for all adolescents 11 through 18 years old and first year college students living in residence halls, these vaccines do not protect against serogroup B, the serogroup that is causing the University of Oregon cases. There are however two meningococcal group B vaccines that were newly licensed by the FDA in 2014 for use in the US: Trumenba (Pfizer) and Bexsero (Novartis). Additional information on vaccines is available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/outbreaks/vaccine-serogroupb.html>.

**Additional information:**

**California Department of Public Health:**

Meningitis Quicksheet <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/Meningquicksheet.pdf>

Other meningitis information for providers <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Pages/MeningococcalDisease.aspx>

**Oregon Health Authority:**

2015 Meningococcal Update

<https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/MeningococcalDisease/Pages/Meningococcal-Update.aspx>