



# Health Notice

## Concerns about meningococcal disease in men who have sex with men

New York City has seen sixteen cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) in men who have sex with men (MSM) since August 2010. In response to the increase, the New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene recommended meningococcal vaccination of all MSM in New York City who were infected with HIV or who regularly have close contact with other men.

Los Angeles County, California, has reported an increased incidence of IMD with 13 cases reported since November 2012, 4 of which occurred in MSM. From 2007–2012, the average annual case count was 25 cases; in 2012 there were only 11 cases.

In contrast, Oregon has seen the incidence of invasive meningococcal disease decline for the last 3 years in a row, and the three cases reported in the first quarter of 2013 put us on track for another record low year. The current year-to-date incidence of 0.07 per 100,000 is well below the 10-year average of 0.39 per 100,000 for this point in the year. None of the four cases have occurred among MSM. Given the lack of increased risk among MSM in Oregon, expansion of existing recommendations for meningococcal vaccination do not appear warranted in Oregon.

We do recommend that clinicians continue to report suspected cases of IMD promptly (without waiting for laboratory confirmation) to their local health department in order to ensure rapid investigation and prompt implementation of control measures. Current recommendations for meningococcal vaccination are provided below, along with resources for further information about meningococcal disease and the outbreak in New York City.

The conjugate vaccines are preferred to the quadrivalent meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4) in persons 9 months–55 years of age. The meningococcal conjugate vaccine is recommended for all 11 – 18 year olds and persons at increased risk of disease based on host factors or likelihood of exposure. Only Menactra® is approved for children 9–23 months of age. High-risk persons 2–10 years of age should receive Menactra® or Menveo®. Neither of the two meningococcal conjugate vaccines are approved for use in persons >55 years of age; high-risk persons >55 years old may receive MPSV4. None of the vaccines currently available in the United States protect against serogroup B disease, which has been the most common in Oregon for the past 20 years. Vaccination may be useful when a significant outbreak of disease due to serogroup A, C, Y, or W135 is continuing in a defined population, e.g., school, institution, or community.

For up-to-date vaccination recommendations, visit: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm#mening](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm#mening)

## **Additional Resources:**

### **New York City**

- March 16, 2013 Health Alert Page: [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/cdmen.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/cdmen.shtml)
- Provider FAQ: <http://nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/cd/mening-provider-faq.pdf>
- Patient Fact Sheet: <http://nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/cd/imd-patient-factsheet.pdf>

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

- Meningococcal Disease Information page: [www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/index](http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/index)
- Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease (ACIP): MMWR March 22, 2013 / 62(RR02); 1-22. [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6202a1](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6202a1)
- Meningococcal Vaccine Information Statement: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-mening.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-mening.pdf)

### **Oregon Health Authority**

- Disease Information page:  
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/Pages/disease.aspx?did=51>
- Emerging Infections Program 2011 Annual Update:  
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/MeningococcalDisease/Documents/nmen11.pdf>