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Public Health Urges Vaccination against Invasive Meningococcal Disease for Men who Have Sex with Men

[Ventura County, Calif.] Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) today issued a Health Recommendation encouraging health care providers to vaccinate persons at increased risk for invasive meningococcal disease (IMD). Since March 2016, 25 IMD cases have occurred in three nearby health jurisdictions – Los Angeles County, the City of Long Beach, and Orange County. Outbreak-associated cases are defined as those caused by meningococcus serogroup C and, for isolates where genome sequence results are available, clonal complex 11 (cc11); or as cases where serogroup data still are pending or cannot be determined. Three of these cases occurred in the past four weeks. Of 18 infections that meet the case definition, 14 occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM). Only one is known to be HIV positive. One infection was fatal.

To date, no common social linkages have been identified among the gay/MSM Los Angeles County IMD cases and cases identified in neighboring jurisdictions; investigation is still ongoing.

Due to these recent IMD cases among gay/MSM, and the fact that many of our residents have frequent interactions with people from these 3 jurisdictions, **Ventura County Public Health recommends meningococcal vaccination for all gay/MSM** and especially those in key risk groups:

- All HIV positive gay/MSM;
- All gay/MSM, regardless of HIV status, who regularly have close or intimate contact with multiple partners or who seek partners through the use of digital applications (“apps”), particularly those who share cigarettes/marijuana or use illegal drugs.

In addition, because of the increased risk for IMD, the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted on June 22, 2016 to recommend that all persons with HIV infection who are two months of age and older be routinely vaccinated with MCV4 vaccine. The MCV4 vaccine provides immunity against meningococcus serogroups A, C, Y and W135. At this time, immunization with meningococcus B vaccine is not considered necessary.

Clinics that Offer **Free or Low Cost** meningococcal vaccine:

- Ventura County Public Health Clinics
 - North Oxnard Public Health -2240 E. Gonzalez Road, Suite 140, Oxnard, 805-981-5221
 - South Oxnard Public Health – 2500 C Street, Suite B1, Oxnard CA. 805-981-5221
- Immunology Clinic - 3291 Loma Vista Rd, Bldg 340, Suite 503. Ventura CA 805-652-6524
- Santa Paula West Clinic – 254 W Harvard Blvd, Ste D, Santa Paula CA. 805-229-0200
Monday morning Pride Clinic.

For IMD epidemiology reports and more information visit:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/MeningococcalDisease.aspx>

For the State Health Advisory regarding the outbreak of meningococcal disease among adult males in Southern California see:

[CDPH Provider Letter](#)