



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

Date: October 8, 2008

Dear Local Health Departments and Regional Epidemiologists:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently reported 14 meningococcal conjugate vaccine failures identified from either Active Bacterial Core sites, MeningNet Sites, or through the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). CDC is requesting WV Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) to report any meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra) failure to CDC. Therefore, WVDHHR is requesting you to obtain complete vaccination history on any invasive meningococcal disease patients reported to your health department and document on the WVEDSS form. If you identify a potential meningococcal vaccine failure, please notify us immediately. We will notify CDC.

The CDC is also conducting antibiotic susceptibility testing for all invasive meningococcal disease patients. IDEP and Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) are working together to send isolates to monitor for emergence of *Neisseria meningitidis* with reduced susceptibility or resistance to antimicrobials in the United States. WVDHHR is participating in this project, so please record any use of antibiotics by the patient in the month before onset of illness. Please use the "Public Health Action" section of WVEDSS form to document name of the antibiotic and when it was taken. If no antibiotics were taken in the preceding month, indicate "No antibiotics consumed in the month prior to onset."

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance with this important public health investigation and please feel free to contact IDEP at 1-800-423-1271 or 304-558-5358, should you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Loretta Haddy".

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