



FOCUS OF FUNGAL EXPOSURE DRUGS BROADENS

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) and other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Marian L. Swinker, MD, MPH, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS, LTCFs STAFF AND MEDICAL DIRECTORS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been investigating an outbreak of invasive fungal infections in association with methylprednisolone acetate manufactured by New England Compounding Center (NECC). Because information on this outbreak is rapidly changing, the most up to date information can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/meningitis.html>

On October 15, 2012, FDA issued a MedWatch statement asking providers to “follow-up with patients for whom you administered an injectable product, including an ophthalmic drug that is injectable or used in conjunction with eye surgery, or a cardioplegic solution purchased from or produced by NECC after May 21, 2012.” For the full text of the FDA MedWatch statement, see:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm> Clinicians who report a suspected case of fungal infection related to NECC medications to MedWatch should also report that case to the local health department or the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (304)-558-5358, extension 1.

In the context of this outbreak, the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology requests that providers notify the local health department immediately if patients are identified with suspected or confirmed invasive fungal infection in association with recent use of an injectable product. DIDE is coordinating investigation with other state health departments and CDC.

DIDE is maintaining a webpage on this outbreak with links to CDC and FDA information: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/Pages/NationalMeningitisOutbreak.aspx> For more information, please contact your local health department or DIDE at (800)-423-1271, ext. 1 or (304)-558-5358, ext. 1.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.