



Herpes Gladiatorum in West Virginia Wrestlers

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities

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WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health**

DATE: March 4, 2011

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LAB DIRECTORS, SCHOOLS (PRINCIPALS, SCHOOL NURSES, COACHES AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS) AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

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

Herpes simplex virus (Herpes Gladiatorum) has been confirmed in 5 members of a high school wrestling team in West Virginia. Suspect cases in other schools are under investigation. Herpes Gladiatorum is spread readily by skin to skin contact and manifests as clusters of painful, vesicular lesions usually on the head and neck. Ocular involvement may also occur.

Wrestlers in West Virginia who participated in recent tournaments February 18 - 19, 2011 and February 24 - 26, 2011 may have been exposed. New cases of Herpes Gladiatorum may occur in exposed wrestlers with onset from February 26 through at least March 10, 2011. Coaches and physicians should be watchful for new cases of Herpes Gladiatorum among high school wrestlers and report these to the local health department immediately. Guidelines for management of Herpes Gladiatorum from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee are attached.

The full scope of the outbreak is under investigation.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to community health providers, hospital-based physicians, infection control preventionists, laboratory directors, schools (principals, school nurses, coaches and athletic directors) and other applicable partners. 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.