



HEALTH ADVISORY #53

NEISSERIA GONORRHEA OUTBREAK MERCER COUNTY

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, and Local Health Departments

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

DATE: September 16, 2011

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

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

Mercer County reported 24 cases of gonorrhea in August 2011, compared to a baseline of 2-3 cases per month in 2010. Providers should have heightened awareness of diagnosis and testing to include the following:

- Most women with gonorrhea are asymptomatic. Symptoms in women may be mild or atypical (e.g. dysuria). Other symptoms include vaginal discharge or bleeding between periods.
- Some men may be asymptomatic. Others may have dysuria or urethral discharge.
- Providers should consider screening sexually active women, including those who are pregnant, for gonorrhea infection if they are at increased risk for infection (age <25, history of previous gonorrhea or other sexually transmitted infections, new or multiple sexual partners, inconsistent condom use, sex work, or drug use).
- More information can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/default.htm>
- All sexual partners should be tested or referred to the local health departments for follow up and care.
- Counties adjacent to Mercer County need to monitor any increase in gonorrhea in their county.

For further information, contact your local health department or the Division of STD/HIV & Hepatitis at (800)-642-8244 (in WV) or go to <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/std-hiv-hep/Pages/default.aspx>

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

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

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