



HEALTH ADVISORY #60

CONTACT MANGEMENT OF A FATAL PROBABLE MENINGOCOCCAL CASE

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities
FROM: Marian L. Swinker, MD, MPH, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: 1/26/2012

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

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

WV BPH was informed of a fatal probable case of meningococcal meningitis in a coal miner employed at a Greene County, PA mine operation. A disease information sheet was provided to the miners. Many of the miners are West Virginia residents and may seek medical treatment in West Virginia. To assist providers in the evaluation of suspected contacts, the following individuals should receive chemoprophylaxis:

- Individuals who worked closely (shoulder to shoulder) with the patient in a confined area for an extended period of time within 7 days before January 22, the patient's onset of illness
- Individuals who may have come into contact with the saliva of the patient through any means, (shared drinking or eating utensils, spittoons, kissing, mouth to mouth resuscitation, etc). within 7 days before January 22, the patient's onset of illness
- Household contacts: especially children younger than 2 years of age; those who frequently slept in the same dwelling as a patient during 7 days before onset of illness
- Passengers seated directly next to a patient during airline flights lasting more than 8 hours

Prophylaxis should be administered as soon as possible after exposure preferably within 24 hours, but has limited value if provided greater than 14 days after exposure.

The signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease can vary widely. Additional information regarding clinical presentation, testing, treatment and control guidelines can be found at:

http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/IBD_VPD/VPD/Pages/Meningococcal.aspx

Report all suspected cases of meningococcal disease **and** names of individuals who receive prophylaxis to your local health department.

For questions contact the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-423-1271 in WV.

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.