

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

## Healthcare Provider Responsibilities

1. Report all suspected cases of invasive meningococcal disease within 24 hours of diagnosis to the local health department (LHD).
2. Submit isolates of *Neisseria meningitidis* to the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) immediately for serogrouping. OLS may be accessed as follows:
  - a. Phone: 304-558-3530
  - b. Web: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/micro/index.cfm>
  - c. Mailing address: 167 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
South Charleston, West Virginia 25303
3. Submit a laboratory report to West Virginia Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WVEDSS) via electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) or by faxing a copy of the report to the local health department.
4. Notify infection control immediately and institute control measures for invasive meningococcal disease immediately upon recognition:
  - a. The patient must be placed under droplet precautions until 24 hours after initiation of effective antimicrobial therapy.
  - b. Provide prophylaxis for all high risk contacts (close contacts). If local health department assistance is needed notify your local health department immediately.
5. Complete the provider section of the WVEDSS form for meningococcal disease:  
<http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/WVEDSS/Documents/N.%20Mening.pdf>

## Laboratory Responsibilities

1. Immediately notify the physician and infection control practitioner of a positive test result for *Neisseria meningitidis* from a normally sterile site.
2. Forward isolates cultured from normally sterile sites to WV OLS for serogrouping. OLS will forward isolates and specimens to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (see Appendix A) as needed. OLS may be accessed as follows:
  - a. Phone: 304-558-3530
  - b. Web: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/micro/index.cfm>
  - c. Mailing address: 167 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
South Charleston, West Virginia 25303
3. Many reference and hospital laboratories in West Virginia report via ELR to the WVEDSS. For hospital laboratories that do not report via ELR, call and fax a copy of the positive test result of *Neisseria meningitidis* to your local health department within 24 hours of detection. For reference laboratories, please notify the West Virginia Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) at 304-558-5358 ext. 1 (phone) and send a fax copy of the test result to fax 304-558-8736.

## Local Health Responsibilities

1. Educate the public about meningococcal meningitis, especially its transmission.
2. Educate providers and laboratories to report confirmed, probable, and suspect cases of invasive meningococcal disease within 24 hours to the local health department to assure management of close contacts, recognition of outbreaks, and facilitation of community education.
3. Educate the public and healthcare providers about meningococcal vaccine and its indications.
4. Inform laboratories to submit *all* invasive meningococcal isolates cultured from normally sterile sites to

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease

## Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services for serogrouping. This will determine if circulating strains are vaccine preventable, and assist with outbreak management. Remind OLS that isolates and specimens may need to be sent to CDC for further testing (see Appendix A).

5. Educate providers about prophylaxis for high risk contacts (close contact).
6. Upon receiving a report of invasive meningococcal disease:
  - a. Investigate the case. Check to confirm that the reported case meets the case definition. Meningococcus cultured from a non-sterile site (throat, sputum, etc.) does not need to be reported.
  - b. Assure that isolates and specimens are forwarded to the Office of Laboratory Services for serogrouping.
  - c. Identify all close contacts.
  - d. Recommend chemoprophylaxis regimens for high risk contacts and index cases of invasive meningococcal disease. For details, see Chemoprophylaxis below.
  - e. Alert close contacts (family, daycare, nursery school, etc.) to watch for early signs of illness, especially fever.
  - f. Enter reports of invasive meningococcal disease in WVEDSS. Document prophylaxis, vaccinations and results of laboratory tests. Forward all paperwork to DIDE.

### **State Public Health Responsibilities**

1. Review laboratory reports submitted in WVEDSS and assign to appropriate jurisdiction (local health) for investigation.
2. Remind healthcare providers, laboratories, and local health to submit meningococcal isolates and specimens accordingly and as recommend in Appendix A.
3. Ascertain case reports and review case investigations submitted in WVEDSS and notify CDC (through electronic case report submission to National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS) in a timely manner.
4. Provide technical expertise and guidance on surveillance, investigation, control measures and prevention of invasive meningococcal disease.
5. Assist local health jurisdictions in the prompt identification and management of close contacts.
6. In the event of an outbreak or cluster of cases:
  - a. Identify local health needs.
  - b. Support public health response.
  - c. Notify public health partners (LHD, OLS, CDC, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) through the State Epidemiologist/OEPS Director).
7. Complete the *Meningococcal Disease Supplemental Data* (see Appendix A) and submit to CDC as scheduled.
8. Update information sheets and protocol as new information becomes available.
9. Summarize surveillance data and surveillance indicators and share with public health partners.

### **Occupational Health**

To minimize risk for transmission of infectious diseases pending laboratory confirmation, the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recommends empiric transmission-based precautions based on the patient's clinical presentation in addition to standard precautions. Precautions include:

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

- a. Droplet precautions for first 24 hours of antimicrobial treatment of the patient.
- b. Post-exposure chemoprophylaxis to healthcare workers exposed to respiratory secretion.
- c. Mask and face protection when there is risk of exposure to aerosolized secretions.

## Definition of terms

**Index case.** An index case or primary case of meningococcal disease is one that occurs in the absence of previous known close contact with another patient.

**Secondary case.** A secondary case of meningococcal disease is one that occurs among close contacts of a primary patient >24 hours after onset of illness in the primary patient.

**Co-primary cases.** Co-primary cases are two or more cases that occur among a group of close contacts with onset of illness separated by  $\leq 24$  hours.

**Close contacts.** Close contacts of a patient who has meningococcal disease include 1) household members; 2) child-care center contacts; and 3) persons directly exposed to the patient's oral secretions (e.g., by kissing, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, endotracheal intubation, or endotracheal tube management).

## Disease Surveillance Objectives

- a. To determine the incidence of meningococcal disease in West Virginia;
- b. To detect trends in patient characteristics, antibiotic resistance, and serogroup specific incidence of disease;
- c. To identify cases promptly;
- d. To identify all close contacts of cases promptly;
- e. To promptly identify clusters or outbreaks of invasive meningococcal disease and initiate appropriate prevention and control measures.
- f. To provide data for evaluation of preventive measures for close contacts to prevent further spread of disease.

## Public Health Significance

### **CARRAIGE**

*Neisseria meningitidis* resides in the human nasopharynx and can be habitual components of the microbial flora in the buccal mucosa, anus, urethra, urogenital mucosa and dental plaque. Pharyngeal carriage can range from 8-25% of the population.

Relationship between asymptomatic carrier and development of invasive meningococcal disease is not completely known. Often humoral immune response is enough to prevent the spread of the organism and the occurrence of invasive disease. However, if humoral response is not adequate (due to lack of bactericidal antibodies) the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and circumvent immunologic response by several virulence factors.

Repeated occurrence of carrier status, even not protective against subsequent new carriage can elicit a cross-protection against invasive disease.

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease

## Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

### DISEASE

Invasive meningococcal disease is alarming to the general public and healthcare providers alike because of the potential for fulminant disease and death in previously healthy individuals. Responding to cases places heavy demands on clinical and public health disease control services. *Neisseria meningitidis* causes both endemic and epidemic disease, primarily meningitis and meningococemia. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children and young adults in the United States, with an estimated 1,400-2,800 cases each year. Ten to fourteen percent of cases are fatal. Of patients who recover, 11%-19% have permanent hearing loss or other serious sequelae. Incidence of meningococcal disease peaks in late winter to early spring. Attack rates are highest among children 3-12 months of age and then steadily decline among older age groups. The highest peak attack rate occurs in children younger than 1 year of age followed by adolescents 15 to 18 years of age. College freshmen students who live in dormitories have a higher rate of disease compared with individuals who are the same age and are not attending college. Close contacts of patients with the disease are at increased risk of becoming infected.

Persons who have certain medical conditions are at increased risk for developing meningococcal infection, including: persons with complement deficiency; persons with anatomic or functional asplenia; and selected research, clinical, laboratory or industrial workers who may be exposed to *Neisseria meningitidis* aerosols. Outbreaks have occurred in communities and institutions, including child care centers, schools, colleges, and military recruit camps. An increased number of meningococcal serogroup C outbreaks in the United States were first reported during the 1990s.

### VACCINES

Meningococcal vaccines are safe, well tolerated and highly efficacious against the most relevant invasive serogroups. Vaccines elicit a long-lasting immune response in many age groups and induce herd immunity. For more information, see section on [Meningococcal vaccines](#).

### Clinical Description

The signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease can vary widely. A person may have either meningococcal meningitis or meningococemia, or both at the same time. The most common symptoms include:

- a. High fever
- b. Severe headache
- c. Difficulty breathing
- d. Stiff neck and back
- e. Painful joints and/or sore muscle
- f. Discomfort looking into bright lights (Photophobia)
- g. Extreme sleepiness, drowsiness and confusion
- h. Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- i. Loss of consciousness/seizures
- j. Rash of red-purple pinpoint spots or larger bruises
- k. In babies under one year of age, the soft spot on the top of the head (fontanel) may bulge upward

In newborns and small infants, the classic findings of fever, headache and neck stiffness may be absent or difficult to detect, and the infant may show only extreme listlessness, irritability, poor feeding and sometimes vomiting.

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease

## Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

### **Etiologic Agent**

*Neisseria meningitidis* is a gram-negative diplococcus bacterium with at least 13 serogroups (A, B, C, D, 29E, H, I, K, L, W-135, X, Y, and Z). Strains belonging to groups A, B, C, Y and W-135 are implicated most frequently in invasive disease.

### **Reservoir**

Humans are the only known reservoir of *Neisseria meningitidis*

### **Mode of Transmission**

By direct contact, including respiratory droplets from nose and throat of infected people; infection usually causes only a subclinical mucosal infection; invasion sufficient to cause systemic disease is comparatively rare. Carrier prevalence of 25% or greater may exist without cases of meningitis. During epidemics, over half the men in a military unit may be healthy carriers of pathogenic meningococci. Fomite transmission is insignificant.

### **Incubation Period**

The incubation period is variable, 1-10 days, but usually less than 4 days.

### **Period of Communicability**

An infected person is infectious as long as meningococci are present in nasal and oral secretions or until 24 hours after initiation of effective antibiotic treatment. Communicability is limited. In studies of households with a case of meningococcal disease, only 3%-4% of households had secondary cases (most of which were 1 case).

### **Outbreak Recognition**

West Virginia has about 10 to 20 cases of meningococcal disease every year. An outbreak is an unusual increase of disease caused by a single serogroup above the expected number of cases.

Outbreaks of serogroup C meningococcal disease (SCMD) have been occurring more frequently in the United States since the early 1990's, and the use of vaccine to control these outbreaks has increased. These outbreaks are characterized by increased rates of disease among persons who may have a common organizational affiliation or who live in the same community yet do not have close contact.

An organization-based outbreak of serogroup C meningococcal disease (SCMD) is defined as the occurrence of three or more confirmed or probable cases of SCMD during a period of  $\leq 3$  months in persons who have a common affiliation but no close contact per 100,000 persons.

A community based outbreak of serogroup C meningococcal disease (SCMD) is defined as the occurrence of three or more confirmed or probable cases during a period of  $\leq 3$  months among persons residing in the same area who are not close contacts of each other and who do not share a common affiliation, with a primary attack rate of at least 10 cases per 100,000 population.

Outbreak response requires detailed epidemiologic (contact tracing) and laboratory (serogrouping) investigation. If the outbreak strain is a vaccine strain, vaccination of at risk population should be considered.

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease

## Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

### Laboratory Diagnosis of Meningococcal Disease

The diagnosis can be made by growing bacteria (culture) from a sample of spinal fluid, blood or other sterile fluids. The spinal fluid is obtained by performing a spinal tap, in which a needle is inserted into an area in the lower back where fluid in the spinal canal is readily accessible. Identification of the type of bacteria responsible is important for selection of correct antibiotics. Sensitivity of a bacterial culture may be low following antibiotic therapy.

A gram stain of a petechial or purpuric scraping, CSF, and buffy coat smear of blood showing gram-negative diplococci can be helpful when suspecting meningococcal disease.

Real-time PCR (rt-PCR) detects meningococcal DNA and is useful in clinical specimens in which the organism may not be detected, such as those who received antimicrobial treatment before cultures were obtained.

Meningococcal serogroup testing is performed by the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services.

### Case Definition for Meningococcal Disease Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE 2015)

#### Clinical Criteria

Clinical purpura fulminans\* in the absence of a positive blood culture.

#### Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

- a. Gram-negative diplococci, not yet identified, isolated from a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or CSF)
- b. Detection of *N. meningitidis* antigen
  - i. In formalin-fixed tissue by immunohistochemistry (IHC); or
  - ii. In CSF by latex agglutination
- c. Detection of *N. meningitidis*-specific nucleic acid in a specimen obtained from a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or CSF), using a validated polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay; or
- d. Isolation of *N. meningitidis*
  - iii. From a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or CSF, or less commonly, synovial, pleural, or pericardial fluid); or
  - iv. From purpuric lesions

#### Epidemiologic Linkage

Not applicable for case classification.

#### Case Classification

##### **Suspected**

- a. Clinical purpura fulminans\* in the absence of a positive blood culture; or
- b. Gram-negative diplococci, not yet identified, isolated from a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or CSF)

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

## Probable

Detection of *N. meningitidis* antigen

- a. In formalin-fixed tissue by immunohistochemistry (IHC); or
- b. In CSF by latex agglutination

## Confirmed

- a. Detection of *N. meningitidis*-specific nucleic acid in a specimen obtained from a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or CSF), using a validated polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay; or
- b. Isolation of *N. meningitidis*
  - i. From a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or CSF, or less commonly, synovial, pleural, or pericardial fluid); or
  - ii. From purpuric lesions.

Purpura fulminans is a progressive cutaneous hemorrhage and necrosis due to dermal vascular thrombosis and disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*.



Infant with purpura and necrosis caused by *N. meningitidis*.

## Disease Prevention Objectives

Reduce the risk of disease through the education of the general public to:

- a. Practice good hand washing and basic hygiene as a primary means of preventing spread of infectious agents.
- b. Not to share spoons, forks, cups, soft drink cans, sport water bottles, glasses, cigarettes, lipsticks or other items that may be covered with oral or nasal secretions.
- c. Practice cough etiquette and good hygiene.
- d. Get age-appropriate vaccination against meningococcal disease (due to serogroup A, C, Y, W, and B).

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

## Preventive Interventions

1. To avoid further exposure advise individuals to:
  - a. Avoid sharing eating and drinking utensils.
  - b. Avoid sharing food, drinks, cigarettes, or mouth pieces from musical instruments.
  - c. Take care to cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
  - d. Wash your hands frequently especially following exposure to respiratory secretions (coughing or sneezing).
2. To prevent additional cases:
  - a. Refer close contacts to health care providers for appropriate chemoprophylaxis.
  - b. Advise contacts of signs and symptoms of illness and refer them to their health care provider should they experience any symptoms compatible with invasive meningococcal disease.
3. Other preventive measures that would help protect individuals are:
  - a. Avoid smoking and smoky environments.
  - b. Get plenty of sleep, exercise regularly.
  - c. Eat a balanced diet and avoid excessive alcohol consumption.
  - d. Vaccinate as indicated.

## Disease Control Objectives

Reduce the risk of secondary cases by early identification and prophylaxis of close contacts to cases.

## **CHEMOPROPHYLAXIS**

Close contacts of cases with invasive meningococcal disease are at high risk of infection and should receive chemoprophylaxis regardless of their immunization status.

Initiate chemoprophylaxis within 24 hours after index case is identified. Chemoprophylaxis given more than 2 weeks after exposure has little value.

Chemoprophylaxis is **RECOMMENDED** in High Risk (Close Contacts of a case):

- a. Household contact, especially children younger than 2 years of age;
- b. Child care or pre-school contact at any time during 7 days before onset of illness;
- c. Direct exposure to index patient's secretions through kissing or through sharing tooth brushes or eating utensils, markers of close social contact, at any time during 7 days before onset of illness;
- d. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, unprotected contact during endotracheal intubation at any time 7 days before onset of illness;
- e. Frequently slept in same dwelling as index patient during 7 days before onset of illness;
- f. Passengers seated directly next to the index case during airline flights lasting more than 8 hours.

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol



## Recommended Chemoprophylaxis Regimens for High-Risk Contacts and People with Invasive Meningococcal Disease

Infants, Children, and Adults	Dose	Duration	Efficacy, %	Cautions
<b>Rifampin</b> <1 month	5 mg/kg body weight, orally, every 12 hrs.	2 days	90-95	Can interfere with efficacy of oral contraceptives and some seizures and anticoagulant medications; can stain soft contact lenses <b>Not</b> recommended for use in pregnant women
≥1 month	10 mg/kg body weight (maximum 600 mg), orally every 12 hrs.	2 days		
<b>Ceftriaxone</b> <15 years	125 mg, intramuscularly	Single dose	90-95	To decrease pain at injection site, dilute with 1% lidocaine
≥15 years	250 mg, intramuscularly	Single dose	90-95	To decrease pain at injection site, dilute with 1% lidocaine
<b>Ciprofloxacin*</b> ≥1 month	20 mg/kg (maximum 500 mg), orally	Single dose	90-95	Not recommended routinely for people <18 years of age; use may be justified after assessment of risks and benefits for the individual patient. Not recommended for use in pregnant women
<b>Azithromycin</b>	10 mg/kg (maximum 500 mg)	Single dose	90	Not recommended routinely equivalent to rifampin for eradication of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> from nasopharynx in one study

Use only if fluoroquinolone-resistant strains of *N. meningitidis* have not been identified in the community.

Source: the American Academy of Pediatrics. Redbook, 30<sup>th</sup> (2015) Edition.

If antimicrobial agents other than ceftriaxone or cefotaxime are used for treatment of invasive meningococcal disease, the index case should receive a regimen of chemoprophylaxis before hospital discharge to eradicate nasopharyngeal carriage of *N. meningitidis*.

Chemoprophylaxis **NOT** recommended for the following persons:

- a. Persons having casual contact with the case and no direct contact with oral secretions, e.g. school or work mates;
- b. Persons who had contact only with a high risk contact, i.e. no direct contact with the index case;
- c. Health care professionals without direct exposure to patient’s oral secretions.

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease

## Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

For outbreaks of meningococcal disease:

- a. Check to confirm that the reported cases meet the confirmed or probable case definition.
- b. Assure that all isolates are forwarded to Office of Laboratory Services for serogrouping.
- c. Consult DIDE urgently for recommendations on outbreak control.
- d. Assure that close contacts are identified and prophylaxed accordingly.
- e. Chemoprophylaxis for people other than those at high risk should be administered only after consultation with public health authorities.

Mass chemoprophylaxis (i.e., administration of antibiotics to a large population) is not recommended to control large outbreaks of disease. The disadvantages (cost of the drug and administration, difficulty of ensuring simultaneous administration of drugs to substantial populations, drug side effects, and emergence of resistant organisms) often outweigh the benefit. Multiple sources and prolonged risk for exposure also makes this approach impractical and unlikely to succeed.

In outbreaks involving smaller populations (e.g., an outbreak in a single school), administration of chemoprophylaxis might be considered. When making a decision about initiating mass chemoprophylaxis, public health officials should consider not only the potential for prevention of new cases but also the logistics, cost, and potential for developing antimicrobial resistance. If mass chemoprophylaxis is undertaken, it should be administered to all targeted persons at the same time.

It is not necessary to restrict travel to areas with an outbreak, close schools or universities, or cancel sports or social events.

Use meningococcal vaccine as an adjunct to chemoprophylaxis:

- Rationale: Secondary cases can occur many weeks after the onset of illness of the index case.
- For control of outbreaks due to serogroup A, C, Y, W - use the meningococcal conjugate vaccine for children  $\geq 2$  months or older and adults.
- For those at increased risk for disease due to serogroup B meningococcal disease outbreak, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends using either of the two serogroup B vaccine on people  $> 10$  years or older.
- Use same vaccination product for all doses.

### **MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES**

Meningococcal vaccines are available to help protect against the most commonly seen meningococcal serogroups (B, C, and Y) in the United States. However, these vaccines may not prevent all cases.

There are three types of meningococcal vaccines licensed in the United States for use in children and adults against serogroups A, C, Y, W, and B.

- a. The meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine, MPSV4, was licensed in 1981 for use in children 2 years of age and older.
- b. The meningococcal conjugate vaccine, MCV4, was licensed in 2005 for use in people 2 to 55 years of age.
- c. The meningococcal recombinant B vaccine, licensed in 2014, is approved for use in persons aged 10–25

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

years who are at increased risk for serogroup B meningococcal infection.

## Meningococcal serogroup covered by each vaccine:

Trade name	Type of Vaccine	Meningococcal Serogroups Covered
Bexsero®	Recombinant	B
Menactra®	Conjugate	A, C, W, Y
MenHibrix®	Conjugate	C, Y (and <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b [Hib])
Menomune®	Polysaccharide	A, C, W, Y
Menveo®	Conjugate	A, C, W, Y
Trumenba®	Recombinant	B

**Meningococcal vaccines. (Minimum age: 6 weeks for Hib-MenCY [MenHibrix], 9 months for MenACWY-D [Menactra], 2 months for MenACWY-CRM [Menveo], 10 years for serogroup B meningococcal [MenB] vaccines: MenB-4C [Bexsero] and MenB-FHbp [Trumenba])**

### Routine vaccination:

- Administer a single dose of Menactra or Menveo vaccine at age 11 through 12 years, with a booster dose at age 16 years.
- Adolescents aged 11 through 18 years with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection should receive a 2-dose primary series of Menactra or Menveo with at least 8 weeks between doses.
- For children aged 2 months through 18 years with high-risk conditions, [see below](#).

### Catch-up vaccination:

- Administer Menactra or Menveo vaccine at age 13 through 18 years if not previously vaccinated.
- If the first dose is administered at age 13 through 15 years, a booster dose should be administered at age 16 through 18 years with a minimum interval of at least 8 weeks between doses.
- If the first dose is administered at age 16 years or older, a booster dose is not needed.
- For other catch-up guidance, see [Catch-up Schedule \(http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html).

### Clinical discretion:

- Young adults aged 16 through 23 years (preferred age range is 16 through 18 years) may be vaccinated with either a 2-dose series of Bexsero or a 3-dose series of Trumenba vaccine to provide short-term protection against most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. The two MenB vaccines are not interchangeable; the same vaccine product must be used for all doses.

### Vaccination of persons with high-risk conditions and other persons at increased risk of disease:

- Children with anatomic or functional asplenia (including sickle cell disease):  
Meningococcal conjugate ACWY vaccines:**

#### **Menveo**

- Children who initiate vaccination at 8 weeks.* Administer doses at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age.

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease

## Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

- b. *Unvaccinated children who initiate vaccination at 7 through 23 months.* Administer two doses, with the second dose at least 12 weeks after the first dose AND after the first birthday.
- c. *Children 24 months and older who have not received a complete series.* Administer two primary doses at least 8 weeks apart.

### MenHibrix

- a. *Children who initiate vaccination at 6 weeks.* Administer doses at 2, 4, 6 and 12 through 15 months of age.
- b. If the first dose of MenHibrix is given at or after 12 months of age, a total of 2 doses should be given at least 8 weeks apart to ensure protection against serogroups C and Y meningococcal disease.

### Menactra

- a. *Children 24 months and older who have not received a complete series.* Administer two primary doses at least 8 weeks apart. If Menactra is administered to a child with asplenia (including sickle cell disease), do not administer Menactra until 2 years of age and at least 4 weeks after the completion of all PCV13 doses.

### Meningococcal B vaccines:

- a. Bexsero or Trumenba
  - i. *Persons 10 years or older who have not received a complete series.* Administer a 2 dose series of Bexsero, at least 1 month apart. Or a 3-dose series of Trumenba, with the second dose at least 2 months after the first and the third dose at least 6 months after the first. The two MenB vaccines are not interchangeable; the same vaccine product must be used for all doses.
- b. **Children with persistent complement component deficiency (includes persons with inherited or chronic deficiencies in C3, C5-9, properdin, factor D, factor H, or taking eculizumab (Soliris®):**

### Meningococcal conjugate ACWY vaccines:

- a. **Menveo**
  - i. *Children who initiate vaccination at 8 weeks.* Administer doses at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age.
  - ii. *Unvaccinated children who initiate vaccination at 7 through 23 months.* Administer two doses, with the second dose at least 12 weeks after the first dose AND after the first birthday.
  - iii. *Children 24 months and older who have not received a complete series.* Administer two primary doses at least 8 weeks apart.
- b. **MenHibrix**
  - i. *Children who initiate vaccination at 6 weeks.* Administer doses at 2, 4, 6 and 12 through 15 months of age.
  - ii. If the first dose of MenHibrix is given at or after 12 months of age, a total of 2 doses should be given at least 8 weeks apart to ensure protection against serogroups C and Y meningococcal disease.
- c. **Menactra**
  - i. *Children 9 through 23 months;* administer two primary doses at least 12 weeks apart.
  - ii. *Children 24 months and older who have not received a complete series;* administer two primary doses at least 8 weeks apart.

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

## **Meningococcal B vaccines:**

- d. Bexsero or Trumenba
  - i. *Persons 10 years or older who have not received a complete series.* Administer a 2-dose series of Bexsero, at least 1 month apart, or a 3-dose series of Trumenba®, with the second dose at least 2 months after the first and the third dose at least 6 months after the first. The two MenB vaccines are not interchangeable; the same vaccine product must be used for all doses.
- c. **For children who travel to or reside in countries in which meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic, including countries in the African meningitis belt or the Hajj:**
  - a. Administer an age-appropriate formulation and series of Menactra or Menveo for protection against serogroups A and W meningococcal disease. Prior receipt of MenHibrix is not sufficient for children traveling to the meningitis belt or the Hajj because it does not contain serogroups A or W.
- d. **For children at risk during a community outbreak attributable to a vaccine serogroup:**
  - a. Administer or complete an age- and formulation-appropriate series of MenHibrix, Menactra, Menveo, Bexsero, or Trumenba.

For more information about each vaccine, vaccine schedule and specific indications, see <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/hcp/index.html> or consult the Immunization Program.

## **Treatment**

1. Fluid resuscitation and empiric management of shock.
2. Management of increased intracranial pressure.
3. Start extended-spectrum cephalosporins promptly after obtaining cultures.

## **Surveillance Indicators**

1. Proportion of meningococcal cases with complete information.
2. Proportion of meningococcal cases with complete vaccination history.
3. Proportion of meningococcal cases with known serogroup.
4. Proportion of meningococcal cases reported in a timely manner.
5. Proportion of meningococcal cases with timely initiation of control measures.

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# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol



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# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol



## Appendix A.

### Protocol for Enhanced Meningococcal Disease Surveillance for the ELC VPD Surveillance Coordination Sites

Last Updated: 10/8/15

#### Contents

Background.....	16
CDC Personnel .....	16
Data Transmission Instructions .....	17
Isolate Submission Instructions.....	19
Data and Isolate Shipping Schedule .....	21

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol



## Background

The main purpose of the meningococcal disease portion of the ELC VPD surveillance coordination project is to enhance meningococcal disease surveillance to help CDC address key and pressing epidemiology and vaccine policy questions, and to monitor the impact of meningococcal vaccines on disease burden in the United States.

Because the incidence of meningococcal disease has fallen to historic lows, surveillance and evaluations of vaccine effectiveness and impact have become increasingly more challenging through our existing surveillance systems and infrastructure. For example, NNDSS is missing data for key variables (e.g., serogroup, case outcome, etc.) from several states because of data transmission issues, and NNDSS is limited in terms of adding additional variables to answer timely and important policy questions.

The goal of this project is to build off of the surveillance systems that are already in place, and to enhance surveillance data we have at CDC for meningococcal disease cases and to build the infrastructure for evaluations of vaccine effectiveness. Data collected from this project will be used to inform key upcoming vaccine policy decisions and changes to the meningococcal outbreak guidelines. Isolates collected through this project will be important for monitoring coverage of the newly licensed serogroup B meningococcal vaccines for strains circulating in the United States, and to monitor any changes in circulating strains due to the introduction of the serogroup B meningococcal vaccines.

## CDC Personnel

Jessica MacNeil, Principal Investigator	<a href="mailto:aji8@cdc.gov">aji8@cdc.gov</a>	404-639-1194
Amy Blain, Surveillance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:wgi9@cdc.gov">wgi9@cdc.gov</a>	404-639-2563

Questions may also be directed to [meningnet@cdc.gov](mailto:meningnet@cdc.gov).

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol



## Data Transmission Instructions

Sites should submit the following variables to CDC via the provided **MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE SUPPLEMENTAL DATA** spreadsheet.

If any variable is not routinely collected or is not known, unknown is an acceptable response. **Only enter a yes/no response if status is known. Please only leave variables blank where they do not apply (college student/MSM outside of defined age/sex group), otherwise enter unknown.**

Please submit these spreadsheets to [meningnet@cdc.gov](mailto:meningnet@cdc.gov).

Variables (for all cases):

- State ID
- Date of Birth or Age
- Sex
- Case Status (confirmed or probable)
- Event Date
- Serogroup
- Outcome (alive/dead)
- Source of isolate (blood/csf)
- Outbreak/cluster related
- College student
- MSM (men who have sex with men)
- HIV status
- Quadrivalent (MenACWY/MCV4) vaccination history
- Serogroup B vaccination history

For matching data to cases reported through NNDSS

### Variable definitions and instructions:

**State ID:** NNDSS ID number (if known) or unique ID number for case used in your state

**Date of Birth or Age:** Date of birth is preferred if known

**Case Status:** Only confirmed and probable cases need reported on the spreadsheet

**Outbreak/cluster related:** Clusters will be defined as 2 or more cases of the same serogroup in an organization in <3 months (not including secondary cases) OR an increase in disease rates in a community or a specific population in a community (rate 2 times the rate during the same time period in prior years). Outbreaks will be defined as 3 or more cases of the same serogroup occurring in <3 months which gives and attack rate of >10/100,000 population

**College student:** Case attending a college or university at the time of disease onset. **Complete this variable for cases age 15-24 years only.**

**MSM (Men who have sex with men):** Case reported in a man identified as an MSM. **Complete this variable for any male cases 16 years of age and older.**

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol



The CDC's HIV/STD Program has recommended the following questions be used to assess MSM status during case investigations:

1. During the past 12 months, have you had sex with only males, only females, or with both males and females?

- 1=Males only
- 2=Females only
- 3=Both Males and Females
- 4=Unknown
- 9=refused

2. Do you consider yourself to be...

- 1=Heterosexual/Straight
- 2=Gay/Lesbian/Homosexual
- 3=Bisexual
- 4=Other
- 9=Refused

3. Thinking back to the 3 months before you were diagnosed with meningococcal disease, how many MEN did you have sex with during that time?

A separate case report form should also be completed and submitted to [meningnet@cdc.gov](mailto:meningnet@cdc.gov) for each MSM case identified. The case report form can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/surveillance/index.html>

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol

## Isolate Submission Instructions

We are requesting all meningococcal isolates (all serogroups, all age-groups) be submitted to CDC. **The completed ENHANCED MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SHIPPING SPREADSHEET must be e-mailed to CDC before a shipment is sent and a hard copy of the spreadsheet must also be included in every isolate shipment.**

Please send electronic spreadsheets to [meningnet@cdc.gov](mailto:meningnet@cdc.gov).

The variables on shipping spreadsheet will include:

State ID:	ID assigned by the state; used to link lab and national/supplemental data
Accession #:	ID assigned by the state lab; usually the state lab accession or identification #
Specimen source:	Sterile site source of isolate
Culture date:	Date of collection of the isolate
Date sent to CDC:	Date the isolate will be sent to CDC
State serogroup:	State laboratory results for serogroup for N. meningitidis
Test used to serogroup	List method used by state laboratory to serogroup (PCR, SASG, etc.)
Viable:	Indicate if isolate is viable at site lab. Enter 'yes' if an isolate is viable and 'no' if an isolate is non-viable
DOB:	Date of birth of the case patient; or age in years at disease onset (if DOB is not available)
Previously submitted*:	Please indicate if the isolate has previously been submitted to CDC
Date previously submitted:	If previously submitted, please indicate the date it was previously submitted

**\*If previously submitted, you do not need to resend unless requested specifically.**

## Shipping instructions:

- All vials should be labeled with the accession number as listed on the Excel shipping spreadsheet. Labels that can withstand dry ice and water should be used. Large labels that require "flagging" should not be used (i.e., those where the label wraps around and the excess length is stuck to itself) as they can become ripped and samples could be misidentified.
  - If sending an isolate culture on a slant, label the slant with the state ID, accession number, and data prepared/inoculated.
  - All non-viable isolates should be sent in the **original/primary tube/vial/slant/plate** and labeled with the state ID and accession number.
- Isolates should be shipped by FedEx or Express mail.
- Viable and non-viable isolates may be shipped together in the same package
- All isolates should be sent in compliance with shipping regulations for infectious substances. Additionally, each package should have the following written on the outside of the package: "DO NOT expose to extreme temperatures". If shipping via FedEx, a typewritten or computer generated "Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods (DG)" must be included.
- Transport :

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol



- a. All *Neisseria meningitidis* isolates should be pure, fresh cultures. Inoculate these cultures on chocolate agar slants and incubate overnight at @ 37°C in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. After overnight incubation, cultures can be sent on chocolate agar slants and at ROOM TEMPERATURE.
  - b. *Neisseria meningitidis* isolates can also be sent using silica gel packages. If shipping isolates on silica, labs should collect the isolate's overnight growth from the chocolate or blood agar plate with a sterile swab. The swab should then be placed into the silica gel package and shipped with ICE PACKS. If ice packs are not available, ship the isolates at ROOM TEMPERATURE and DO NOT use dry ice.
6. Special Instructions:
- a. **If more than 10 isolates are being shipped, all isolates should be sent frozen.**
  - b. Packages containing isolates should not have the names of laboratory staff on the shipping documents

**Address:**

**ATTN: STAT Lab  
c/o Meningitis Laboratory Unit 10/44  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333**

**Laboratory Contact:**

Melissa Whaley or Laurel Thompson Jenkins  
E-mail: [dbq3@cdc.gov](mailto:dbq3@cdc.gov) and [knt9@cdc.gov](mailto:knt9@cdc.gov)  
Tel: (404) 639-1380  
Fax: (404) 639-4421

# Invasive Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Investigation Protocol



## Data and Isolate Shipping Schedule

Please send both the **MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE SUPPLEMENTAL DATA** spreadsheet and the **ENHANCED MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SHIPPING SPREADSHEET** to [meningnet@cdc.gov](mailto:meningnet@cdc.gov) and ship isolates to CDC during your sites scheduled month below. **Please submit the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> of your designated month.**

Submission Month	
October 2015	New Jersey, South Carolina, Indiana, Missouri, New York, Maine, Arizona, Utah, Kentucky
November 2015	Mississippi, Iowa, Texas, Michigan, Oklahoma, Alabama, New Hampshire, NYC, Kansas, Montana
December 2015	Louisiana, Illinois, Arkansas, West Virginia, Colorado, Florida
January 2016	California, Washington, Tennessee, Massachusetts
February 2016	Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Vermont, Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia, Alaska, Rhode Island, North Dakota
March 2016	New Jersey, South Carolina, Indiana, Missouri, New York, Maine, Arizona, Utah, Kentucky
April 2016	Mississippi, Iowa, Texas, Michigan, Oklahoma, Alabama, New Hampshire, NYC, Kansas, Montana
May 2016	Louisiana, Illinois, Arkansas, West Virginia, Colorado, Florida
June 2016	California, Washington, Tennessee, Massachusetts
July 2016	Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Vermont, Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia, Alaska, Rhode Island, North Dakota