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## Meningococcal Disease Outbreak Alert: Stock the Quadrivalent Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine at Your Pharmacy

Since March 2016, 24 cases of meningococcal disease, including two fatal cases, have occurred among residents or visitors to Los Angeles county, Orange County and the City of Long Beach. Of the 24 cases, 22 are men and, of these, 19 identified as men who have sex with men (MSM). Persons with HIV infection are known to be at increased risk of meningococcal disease, and two cases had HIV infection.

Of the 23 cases with known serogroup, all have been identified as serogroup C disease. Menactra<sup>®</sup> and Menveo<sup>®</sup> (MenACWY or MCV4) protect against serogroup C meningococcal disease. Vaccination against serogroup C meningococcal disease is a critical tool in controlling this outbreak. Pharmacists can be an important public health partner by vaccinating the target population. Although Menactra<sup>®</sup> and Menveo<sup>®</sup> are licensed for persons through 55 years of age, they may be administered to persons 56 years of age and older.

Due to an ongoing outbreak of serogroup C meningococcal disease in Southern California, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties, as well as the City of Long Beach recommend that all MSM in these jurisdictions receive the quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY or MCV4). Additionally, the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted at their June 2016 meeting to recommend that all HIV-infected persons routinely receive MenACWY every 5 years.

### **In order to expand immunization opportunities locally, CDPH advises that pharmacies stock and promote MenACWY vaccination\* for:**

- All MSM residing in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties and the City of Long Beach
- MSM residing outside of these jurisdictions who plan to travel to Los Angeles or Orange Counties or the City of Long Beach (to be effective, vaccination should occur at least 2 weeks prior to travel)
- All persons with HIV infection regardless of county of residence (2 dose primary series at least 8 weeks apart is recommended for this population.)

\*A booster dose of MenACWY should be given to those whose last dose of MenACWY was 5 or more years ago.



CDPH encourages pharmacies, particularly in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties, to stock MenACWY vaccine for immediate need. In addition, CDPH recommends listing your pharmacy on the [HealthMap Vaccine Finder website \(http://vaccinefinder.org\)](http://vaccinefinder.org) or verifying that your pharmacy is currently listed with correct information including the availability of MenACWY. Registration information can be found at the following website: <http://vaccinefinder.org/about/>

For more information on the meningococcal disease and the outbreak in your area, please see the respective local health department websites or the [CDPH website \(http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDPH-MSM-mening-health-advisory-Aug16-2016.pdf\)](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDPH-MSM-mening-health-advisory-Aug16-2016.pdf).

Los Angeles County Public Health:  
Immunization Program Phone Number: (213) 351-7800 or  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/DiseaseSpecific/dontswap.htm>

Orange County Public Health:  
Phone number : (714) 834-8180  
<http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/disease/mening>

Long Beach Public Health:  
Public Health 24 Hour Advisory Info: (562) 570-4499 or  
<http://www.longbeach.gov/health/diseases-and-condition/information-on/meningococcal-faqs/>

San Diego County Public Health  
Immunization questions: (866) 358-2966 or  
[http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/immunization\\_branch.html#izprogram1](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/immunization_branch.html#izprogram1)