

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

(Non-meningococcal, non-Haemophilus influenzae)

Last revised May 10, 2013

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** A group of diseases characterized by infection of the meninges caused by a bacterium other than *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, Groups A or B *Streptococcus*, or *Listeria monocytogenes*. Some examples of other organisms that can cause bacterial meningitis are: *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Klebsiella* species. Signs and symptoms of meningitis may include: sudden onset of fever, intense headache, stiff or rigid neck, photophobia, nausea and vomiting.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis or laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
Isolation and identification of a bacterial pathogen from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- D. **WISCONSIN CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed or has a positive CSF culture.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **WISCONSIN DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CATEGORY II:**
Report to the patient's local health department either electronically through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), by mail or fax using an Acute and Communicable Disease Case Report ([F-44151](#)), or by other means within 72 hours upon recognition of a case or suspected case.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUIRED:**
- *Electronically* – Report through WEDSS, including appropriate disease-specific tabs
 - OR
 - *Paper Copy* – Acute and Communicable Diseases Case Report ([F-44151](#))
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative rule DHS 145.05, local public health should follow the methods of control recommended in the current edition of *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, edited by David L. Heymann, published by the American Public Health Association.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT – REGIONAL OFFICES – TRIBAL AGENCIES:**
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/index.htm>
- B. **BCDER / COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY SECTION:** (608) 267-9003
- C. **WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE / BACTERIOLOGY:** (608) 263-3421

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

- Heymann DL, ed. Bacterial meningitis. In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 19th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2008:414.