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Date: May 31, 2016

To: Local Health Departments and Tribal Health

From: Jeffrey P. Davis, MD, Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist  
Bureau of Communicable Diseases

Re: *Neisseria meningitidis* Serogroup C Outbreak in Chicago, Illinois

The Chicago Department of Health has recently identified two cases of invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup C (invasive meningococcal disease, or IMD) occurring among men who have sex with men (MSM). There have been a total of 9 IMD cases in the Chicago area since May 2015, including one death. Though anyone can contract meningococcal meningitis, African American MSM, and MSM living with HIV continue to be disproportionately affected by the outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not changed its routine recommendations regarding meningococcal vaccination; however, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health (DPH), recognizes there is an increased risk of exposure to the outbreak strain in this population. To prevent the risk of invasive meningococcal disease associated with the Chicago cluster, DPH, in consultation with CDC, is recommending vaccination with quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (includes serogroups A, C, W135 and Y) for individuals who meet the following criteria:

- **MSM regardless of HIV status, who have intimate contact with anonymous partners, particularly those from the Chicago area**
- **AND**
- **who have never received meningococcal vaccine, or who received the vaccine more than five years ago.**

The vaccine recommended depends on age

Age group	Vaccine Recommendation
Up to 18 years	1 dose of MCV4
19-55 years	1 dose of MCV4
56 years or older	1 dose of MPSV4 if unvaccinated. If previously vaccinated with MCV4, MCV4 should be used for re-vaccination.

Please note that MCV4 is licensed for adults up to age 55 years.

**Vaccine Availability:**

For the individuals who fit the criteria above, local health departments may use state-supplied meningococcal vaccine for this outbreak, regardless of the patient's insurance status. However, the Immunization Program continues to encourage those with insurance to seek vaccine from their health care provider or from a pharmacy, if possible.

Local health departments should place their order for MCV4 vaccine under the "adult" section of the ordering page in the WIR. If there are questions regarding ordering, please contact Jackie Nelson at [Jackie.Nelson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jackie.Nelson@wisconsin.gov)

**Additional Resources:**

- DPH Immunization Program—Adult Vaccination  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/adult.htm>
- DPH—Meningitis <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/invasive-bacteria/meningitisviralbacterial.htm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Meningococcal Vaccination  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/default.htm>