

December 7, 2017

Serogroup B Meningococcal Disease Outbreak at Oregon State University (OSU)

Actions Requested

- **Be aware** of an ongoing serogroup B meningococcal disease outbreak at Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis.
- **Report suspected or confirmed cases of meningococcal disease to KPHD by calling (360) 728-2235 24/7.** Meningococcal disease is immediately notifiable in Washington State. Symptoms are included below.
- **Provide OSU students 25 years of age and younger with serogroup B meningococcal vaccination.** Licensed serogroup B meningococcal vaccines are Bexsero® and Trumenba®. The same vaccine **must** be used for all doses of the series. The vaccines are **not** interchangeable.
- **Understand that if Trumenba® is used, a 3-dose series is recommended in the setting of an outbreak.** OSU students who have received only one dose of Trumenba® should receive a 2nd dose at least 1-2 months after the first and then a 3rd dose at least 4 months after the second dose. If the 2-dose series of Trumenba® was completed prior to the outbreak, then additional doses are not recommended at this time. Bexsero® remains a 2-dose series with doses given at least 1 month apart regardless of outbreak status.
- **Serogroup B meningococcal vaccine from the Vaccine for Children Program (VFC) can only be administered to individuals until their 19th birthday.** Vaccines are available at many major pharmacies for those not eligible for the VFC program.

For questions, please contact our Communicable Disease staff at 360-728-2235.

Background

Multiple OSU students have been diagnosed with serogroup B meningococcal disease during this academic year; the most recent case was diagnosed November 24th. Meningococcal disease outbreaks can persist for months. Many OSU students from Washington State will return home during winter break (December 8, 2017 – January 7, 2018). **Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis** include fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, photophobia, and altered mental status. **Symptoms of meningococemia** include fever, fatigue, vomiting, cold hands and feet, chills, myalgia, arthralgia, chest pain, abdominal pain, tachypnea, diarrhea, and, in the later stages, a purpuric rash.

The disease is spread when an uninfected person comes into close contact with the fluids of the nose and throat of an infected person. Close contact happens through sharing cups, beer, soda cans, or other drinking containers; sharing smoking devices like cigarettes, joints, e-cigarettes, or vapes; sharing silverware or plates; kissing; coughs and sneezes that are not covered. Some people carry *N. meningitidis* in their nose and throat but do not have any signs of illness and are considered carriers of the bacteria. Anyone can get meningococcal disease, however, college freshmen living in dormitories have a higher risk of developing meningococcal disease than other college students.

Resources

- (1) ACIP recommendations for use of the serogroup B meningococcal vaccine: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6619a6.htm>
- (2) Trumenba® dosing information - <https://www.pfizerpro.com/product/trumenba/neisseria-meningitidis/dosing-and-coadministration>
- (3) OSU Student Health Services – Meningococcal Disease: <http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/meningococcal-disease>
- (4) Meningococcal vaccine information for healthcare providers: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/hcp/index.html>