



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Commissioner*

## 2012 ALERT # 30

### **UPDATE: Invasive Meningococcal Disease in Men Who Have Sex with Men Please Share this Alert with All Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Primary Care Physicians, HIV Specialists, Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine Staff in Your Facility**

- New case of invasive meningococcal disease brings the total to 14 cases since August 2010.
- Providers should continue to recommend meningococcal vaccine to HIV-infected men who are NYC residents and who report intimate contact with a man met either through an online website, digital application (“app”), or at a bar or party since September 1, 2012.

October 22, 2012

Since 2010, there have been 14 cases of invasive *Neisseria meningitidis* infection among men who have sex with men (MSM) residing in NYC. The most recent case was hospitalized on October 18, 2012. There was 1 case in 2010, 4 in 2011, and now 9 in 2012. All cases were men between 21 and 59 years old. Nine cases are HIV-infected. Six cases lived in Brooklyn, three in Manhattan, two in the Bronx, two in Queens, and one was undomiciled. Four patients have died; 3 were HIV-infected. The approximate annual incidence rate in MSM is 5.9 per 100,000. In contrast, the rate of IMD (all serogroups) in all other New Yorkers is 0.25 per 100,000.

#### Meningococcal Vaccine Recommendation

Based on the ongoing occurrence of cases and the high case fatality rate among HIV-infected MSM, DOHMH continues to recommend administration of meningococcal vaccine to the following persons:

- HIV-infected men who are NYC residents and
- Who had intimate contact with a man met either through an online website, digital application (“app”), or at a bar or party since September 1, 2012.

Individuals who meet some but not all of these criteria are advised to discuss their need for meningococcal vaccine with their physician or medical provider.

DOHMH issued these vaccine recommendations on October 4, 2012. Detailed information on meningococcal vaccine is available on the Health Department website at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cd/meningitis-provider.shtml>, including a patient screening and consent form in English and Spanish, Frequently Asked Questions, and Vaccine Information Statements (VIS). VISs are also available in 21 languages at [www.immunize.org/vis/vis\\_meningococcal.asp](http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis_meningococcal.asp). Providers are asked to report adverse reactions to meningococcal vaccine to the Health Department at 347-396-2400 or directly to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at <http://vaers.hhs.gov/esub/index>. To report suspect cases of invasive meningococcal disease or for more information about meningococcal disease or vaccination, call the Provider Access Line: 866-NYC-DOH1 (1-866-692-3641). We greatly appreciate our partnership with healthcare providers in NYC in addressing this outbreak.

Sincerely,

*Jane R Zucker, MD, MSc*

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc, Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Immunization

*Marcelle Layton, MD*

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Bureau of Communicable Disease