



# Health Alert



City of Chicago  
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Communicable Disease Program

Chicago Department of Public Health  
Julie Morita, MD, Commissioner

## **Update: Meningococcal Vaccine Recommendations for Men Who Have Sex With Men and HIV-positive Individuals, HAN #5**

**Date:** March 18, 2016

**To:** Infection Preventionists, Emergency Department, Infectious Disease, Primary Care, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Critical Care physicians and Laboratory personnel

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The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is investigating a case of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup C reported in March 2016, 9 months following the last case tied to a Chicago-area outbreak of serogroup C IMD during the summer of 2015. This brings the total number of serogroup C IMD cases in the Chicago metropolitan area to 8 since May 2015. All serogroup C cases have occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM), and a majority have been HIV positive.

- 1) CDPH continues to recommend all MSM receive meningococcal conjugate vaccine (i.e., Menactra, Menveo) that provides protection against serogroups A, C, W135, and Y.** Most adults only need one dose for adequate protection.
- 2) HIV-infected and immunocompromised individuals should receive 2 doses, separated by 8 weeks (i.e., at 0 and 2 months).**<sup>1</sup> There are limited data regarding the risk of meningococcal disease in relation to a person's CD4 count. There is also limited data on vaccine effectiveness in patients with low CD4 counts. Clinicians must ensure that patients understand the risk factors for disease, as well as signs/symptoms of illness, and provide post-exposure chemoprophylaxis to close contacts (household, intimate, and/or sexual contacts) of confirmed cases regardless of vaccination history.

**Revaccination:** Persons at increased risk of meningococcal disease require revaccination every 5 years as long as the person remains at increased risk.

If healthcare providers do not have vaccine available, patients can be referred to pharmacies and CDPH Fast-track clinics. A list of providers currently offering meningococcal vaccine is available on the CDPH [website](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/infectious/meningococcal-vaccine-locations.html) ([http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp\\_info/infectious/meningococcal-vaccine-locations.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/infectious/meningococcal-vaccine-locations.html)). Providers or patients may also directly call 311 to obtain locations where vaccine is accessible for both insured and uninsured individuals.

Brand Name	Menactra	Menveo	Menomune
Characteristics	Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4)	Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4)	Polysaccharide Vaccine (MPSV4)
CPT Code	90734	90734	90733
Serogroups	A, C, W135, Y	A, C, W135, Y	A, C, W135, Y
Manufacturer & Licensure	Sanofi Pasteur, Licensed in 2005	Novartis, Licensed in 2010	Sanofi Pasteur, Licensed in 1981

<b>Age Guidelines</b>	9 months – 55 years*	2 – 55 years*	56 years and older
<b>Administration</b>	Intramuscular	Intramuscular	Subcutaneous
<b>Vaccine properties</b>	Single-dose vials, no preservative or adjuvant	Single-dose vials, no preservative or adjuvant, requires reconstitution	Single-dose or 10-dose vials, diluent is sterile water with thimerisol preservative, requires reconstitution

\*Although meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (i.e., Menomune) is the only licensed vaccine for adults aged 56 and older, conjugate vaccine (i.e. Menactra, Menveo) can be used for this age group in the context continued increased risk for disease caused by serogroup C strains.

Additional information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about *N. meningitidis* infection and meningococcal vaccines can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/index.html> and <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6003a3.htm>

**Please remember to report cases of IMD to CDPH immediately.** Please ensure that bacterial isolates are submitted to the Illinois Public Health Laboratory for serogrouping and molecular typing in a timely fashion. To report a suspect or confirmed case of meningococcal disease, please call 312-746-5377 or 312-746-5925 during business hours; during non-business hours, call 311 and ask for the communicable disease physician on-call.