



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2012

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Fungal Meningitis Confirmed in Six Michigan Patients

GRAND RAPIDS – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) are conducting a multi-state investigation of cases of fungal meningitis and strokes among patients who received epidural steroid injections after July 1. Six cases have been confirmed in Michigan at this time.

“While no cases of fungal meningitis have been reported in Kent County, we want to make all care providers aware of the outbreak,” said Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. “We want to be sure that every effort is made to identify patients who may have received this injection.”

The CDC is investigating a potentially contaminated product as the suspected cause of the outbreak. Injections with preservative-free methylprednisolone acetate (80mg/ml) prepared by the New England Compounding Center (NECC), located in Framingham, Mass were recalled last month:

- Methylprednisolone Acetate (PF) 80 mg/ml Injection, Lot #05212012@68, BUD 11/17/2012
- Methylprednisolone Acetate (PF) 80 mg/ml Injection, Lot #06292012@26, BUD 12/26/2012
- Methylprednisolone Acetate (PF) 80 mg/ml Injection, Lot #08102012@51, BUD 2/6/2013

There are four Michigan facilities that received these recalled lots:

- Michigan Neurosurgical Institutes in Grand Blanc
- Michigan Pain Specialists in Brighton
- Neuromuscular and Rehabilitation in Traverse City
- Southeast Michigan Surgical Hospital in Warren

Any individual who received an epidural steroid injection or steroid injection into a joint at one of the four Michigan facilities and is experiencing symptoms consistent with fungal meningitis or a stroke should immediately contact their physician or seek medical attention. Physicians should notify the MDCH about any patients undergoing evaluation. Physicians may contact the MDCH Communicable Disease Division at (517) 335-8165 to report a suspect case or for any questions.

Fungal meningitis is not transmitted person-to-person. Some patients started showing symptoms one to four weeks following the injection. Symptoms include fever, new or worsening headache, nausea, and some stroke-like symptoms. Some patients' symptoms were very mild. So far, 49 cases and five deaths have been reported from six states. For more information on the investigation, check out the website: <http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/meningitis.html>

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.