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## **Meningitis and Stroke Associated with Potentially Contaminated Product**

To: Health Care Providers, Hospitals, and Ambulatory Care Centers  
From: Patsy Kelso PhD, State Epidemiologist for Infectious Disease

**– Please Distribute Widely –**

### **Background**

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) are coordinating a multi-state investigation of fungal meningitis among patients who received steroid injections. On September 25, 2012, the New England Compounding Center (NECC) voluntarily recalled three lots of methylprednisolone acetate.

None of these products were distributed to Vermont. Although all cases detected to date occurred after injections with products from these three lots, as a precaution, CDC and FDA recommend that healthcare professionals cease use of any product from the NECC until further information is available. Several Vermont healthcare facilities have received non-recalled products from NECC and all of these products have been sequestered.

### **Current Situation**

- As of October 9, a total of 119 cases have been identified in 10 states. There have been 11 deaths. No cases have been reported to date in Vermont.
- NECC has voluntarily expanded its recall to include all products that were compounded at and distributed from its facility.
- CDC's guidance to patients has not changed as a result of this voluntary recall. Patients who feel ill and are concerned about whether they received a medication from NECC should contact their physicians.
- Health Department staff are participating on daily national CDC conference calls to monitor the situation.

### **Requested Actions**

- Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/meningitis.html> for daily updates on this investigation, clinician guidance, and laboratory testing information.
- Report any patients undergoing evaluation to the Health Department 24/7 at (802) 863-7240.
- Report any suspected adverse events following use of these products to FDA's MedWatch program at 1-800-332-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

### **Previous Advisories on This Topic**

October 5: [http://healthvermont.gov/advisory/documents/100512\\_fungal\\_meningitis.pdf](http://healthvermont.gov/advisory/documents/100512_fungal_meningitis.pdf)