

Cameron Kaiser, MD  
Public Health Officer

Susan D. Harrington, MS, RD  
Director, Department of Public Health

---

## **Health Advisory**

### **Revised Local Recommendations for Meningococcal Immunization for At-Risk MSMs and HIV+ MSMs**

**April 8, 2014**

---

#### **BACKGROUND**

Los Angeles County is in the process of investigating a potential cluster of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) among men who have sex with men (MSMs). Since January 1, 2014, LA County reported a total of eight IMD cases, four of which were MSMs, and three of those were HIV+. Three subsequently died, all MSMs, two of whom were HIV+. Three of the four MSM IMD cases reported residence in or socializing around the West Hollywood or North Hollywood areas.

No cases have been reported among the MSM population in Riverside County in 2014 to date.

The Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices currently only recommends meningococcal vaccination to HIV+ individuals or MSMs if an additional risk factor is present. After consultation with Los Angeles County health officials, the Riverside County Department of Public Health (RCDOPH) believes that the greater impact of the current disease cluster upon MSMs and HIV+ individuals merits an expanded local recommendation.

#### **REVISED LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MENINGOCOCCAL IMMUNIZATION**

In addition to the clinical situations for which meningococcal vaccination is already indicated, RCDOPH also recommends offering vaccination to the following populations:

- All HIV+ MSMs.
- All MSMs, regardless of HIV status, who regularly have close or intimate contact with multiple partners or who seek partners through the use of digital applications (“apps”), particularly those who share cigarettes/marijuana or use illegal drugs.

Individuals who are traveling to the White Party in Palm Springs (scheduled for April 25 through April 28) and who may engage in these activities are also candidates. If immunization is indicated, they should receive the vaccine as soon as possible as immunity may take approximately two weeks to acquire.

This advisory is in response to an urgent health matter and is not intended as a permanent local recommendation. RCDOPH is in communication with Los Angeles County officials and will update these recommendations accordingly as new information becomes available. For more information, providers may call (951) 358-5107 during business hours.