

5/19/2023

** NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

Outbreak of Suspected Fungal Meningitis in Matamoros, Mexico

Actions Requested:

Be aware of patients who underwent procedures using epidural anesthesia in Matamoros, Mexico and have developed signs and symptoms of possible meningitis.

- Clinics reported thus far: River Side Surgical Center and Clinica K-3
- Signs and Symptoms: fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, photophobia, altered mental status
- Patients who have undergone a procedure under epidural anesthesia in Matamoros, Mexico after January 1st, 2023, and show signs of suspected fungal meningitis, providers should perform brain imaging (CT or MRI) and a diagnostic lumbar puncture if there is no contraindication.
- Consider ordering bacterial and fungal cultures of CSF
- Consider ordering serum and CSF levels of (1,3)-beta-D-glucan
- Consider ordering serum and CSF Aspergillus galactomannan and PCR testing
- If suspected, treatment involving broad-spectrum antifungal medications that have adequate central nervous system penetration should begin as soon as possible following CSF collection
- Consultation with infection disease specialist is recommended

Suspected fungal meningitis cases should be immediately reported to Thurston County Public Health or Washington Department of Health

- Monday – Friday (8am-5pm) call the Communicable Disease Team at 360-867-2610
- For weekend or after-hours reporting call the afterhours line at 1-800-986-9050.
- Fax case information to 360-867-2601

Background:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released information on an outbreak of suspected fungal meningitis cases. This outbreak is among U.S. patients that have undergone cosmetic procedures in the city of Matamoros in Tamaulipas, Mexico that utilized epidural anesthesia. The causative organism for the outbreak has not been identified yet but at least one of the patients are displaying elevated fungal biomarker (1,3)-beta-D-glucan in their cerebrospinal fluid. All 5 patients have been hospitalized in Texas; one has died as of May 12th, 2023.

Resources:

For more information, please reference the links below.

- CDC HAN Alert:
<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00491.asp#:~:text=The%20Centers%20for%20Disease%20Control,%2C%20state%20of%20Tamaulipas%2C%20Mexico.>
- CDC Meningitis: <https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html>
- CDC Fungal Meningitis: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/infections/HAI-fungal-meningitis.html>

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- WA DOH Meningitis Guideline:
<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/5100/420-064-Guideline-Meningococcal.pdf?uid=6466c012d1cd9>
- Travel Precautions:<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/fungal-infections-mexico>

Washington State Department of Health Survey for Dental Facilities

The Washington State Department of Health, Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Section is asking dental facilities to fill out [this survey](#) about infection prevention. This survey will take approximately **5 minutes** to complete. It will be open until June 2nd. If you have any questions, please contact hai@doh.wa.gov.



[https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio/s?
s=DentalInfectionPrevention](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio/s?s=DentalInfectionPrevention)

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day): Reporting a Notifiable Condition (thurstoncountywa.gov)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: [Communicable Disease Updates \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](#)