

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Health Care Provider Notice

Immediately Report Suspected Meningococcal Disease to the County Health Department

Since October 2016 five cases of meningococcal disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup C have been reported in Miami-Dade County. These cases may represent a change in the dominant regional serogroup and could lead to an increased number of cases observed in the region based on prior serogroup introductions.

Notably, three of the reported meningococcal disease cases were observed among men who have sex with men (MSM), with and without HIV infection. This temporal clustering of cases among MSM has not been observed previously in South Florida.

Some of these cases were not reported to the county health department upon initial suspicion as required, which caused a delay in the public health response to each case. Early notification of public health officials ensures rapid contact investigations to identify family, friends and health care providers that need antibiotic prophylaxis to prevent disease.

Health care providers are reminded to report suspected meningococcal disease immediately to the county health department, prior to laboratory confirmation.

Broward County Health Department: 954-467-4700 extension 5575

Miami-Dade County Health Department: 305-470-5660

Monroe County Health Department: 305-809-5620

Palm Beach County Health Department: 561-671-4184

The common presentations of invasive meningococcal disease are meningococemia and/or acute meningitis. The classic clinical features of disease (e.g., petechial or purpuric rash, meningeal signs, septic shock, and impaired consciousness) often appear late in the illness. Early suspicion and treatment improves outcomes.

Health care providers may consider supplementing bacterial cultures with *Neisseria meningitidis* polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to increase the sensitivity of diagnostic tests. Two of the recent cases were blood or cerebrospinal fluid culture negative and PCR positive for *Neisseria meningitidis*.

For more information on disease reporting visit floridahealth.gov/diseasereporting.

For questions please contact your county health department.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Likos, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Deputy Secretary for Health (Interim)