

# HEALTH ADVISORY



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## **REGION IV PUBLIC HEALTH**

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum  
counties and Cowlitz Tribe

### **TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers**

**Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.**

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the following Region IV health officers:

**Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH**

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412  
Skamania County Community Health, (509) 427-3850

**Teresa Everson, MD, MPH, CPH**

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412  
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**Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH**

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, (360) 414-5599  
Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, (360) 795-6207

### **Alert categories:**

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

## Serogroup B Meningococcal Disease Outbreak at Oregon State University (OSU)

### *Action requested*

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- Be aware of an ongoing serogroup B meningococcal disease outbreak at Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis.
- Healthcare providers should be alert to the possibility of meningococcal disease among OSU students with compatible symptoms (see below).
- Healthcare providers should provide serogroup B meningococcal vaccination to OSU students 25 years of age and younger.
- Serogroup B meningococcal vaccine is licensed as either a 2-dose series (Bexsero®), with the doses administered 6 months apart, or as a 3-dose series (Trumenba®), with doses administered 1-2 and 6 months following the first dose. If Trumenba® is utilized in response to a serogroup B meningococcal disease outbreak, ACIP recommends the 3-dose series in order to provide earlier protection and maximize the immune response. The same vaccine must be used for all doses.

### *Background*

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Five OSU students have been diagnosed with serogroup B meningococcal disease during this academic year; the most recent case diagnosed November 24th. Meningococcal disease outbreaks can persist for months. Many OSU students from Washington State will return to Southwest Washington during winter break (December 8, 2017 – January 7, 2017). See resources below for information related to the outbreak and meningococcal vaccination.

### *Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis*

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Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis include fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, photophobia, and altered mental status.

### *Symptoms of meningococcemia*

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Symptoms of meningococcemia include fever, fatigue, vomiting, cold hands and feet, chills, myalgia, arthralgia, chest pain, abdominal pain, tachypnea, diarrhea, and, in the later stages, a purpuric rash.

### *Resources*

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- CDC meningococcal vaccine information for healthcare providers:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/hcp/index.html>
- ACIP recommendations for use of serogroup B meningococcal vaccine:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6619a6.htm>
- OSU Student Health Services: Meningococcal Disease  
<http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/meningococcal-disease>

**Thank you for your partnership.**

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Cowlitz County Health Department:	(360) 414-5599	(360) 425-7531
Skamania County Community Health:	(509) 427-3850	(509) 427-0188
Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services:	(360) 795-6207	(360) 795-6143