

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

July 12, 2016

Since May 1, eight cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) have been identified within the Los Angeles County Public Health jurisdiction. Additional cases have been reported in surrounding jurisdictions in this same time frame, leading the state to recently declare an outbreak of IMD in Southern California. While a common social link among infected individuals has not been identified, the investigation is on-going. Of particular concern is the fact that most of the cases occurred among gay and other men who have sex with men (MSM).

Meningococcal disease is caused by a bacteria that can cause severe infections in the lining of the brain, spinal cord, and bloodstream. It is spread through saliva during close contact, such as kissing or coughing, or living in close quarters. IMD is not spread through casual contact. Once infected, severe illness can develop rapidly and is considered a health emergency, as it is fatal in about one in 10 patients.

MOTION

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Thankfully, vaccines are available to help protect against the most common types of meningococcal disease. After experiencing similar clusters of IMD in the MSM population in 2012-2014, the Department of Public Health issued a specialized vaccination recommendation for the local MSM community. At the same time the Department also undertook efforts to develop key partnerships with community agencies who serve at risk populations, educate at risk populations about the disease, and promote vaccination. In light of the most recent cases among gay/MSM individuals, the Department of Public Health has reiterated its recommendation for meningococcal vaccinations among all HIV-positive people and high-risk MSM.

The recent outbreak of IMD compels the County to do more to protect its residents and increase awareness and vaccination rates amongst the communities and individuals at risk.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors request that the Director of the Health Agency, the Interim Director of the Department of Public Health and the Interim Health Officer, report back in 45 days in writing on recommendations to increase vaccination rates in the at risk groups.

This report back shall include:

- a) A communication plan detailing how the Department of Public Health will increase awareness of IMD through social media, community partners, physicians and other departments and cooperating agencies
- b) A plan for a vaccination campaign which may include;
  1. A plan for ensuring access to vaccines for under- and un-insured adults

2. A plan for expanding partnerships with agencies who serve the MSM community
  3. Options for engaging pharmacies in promoting and providing meningococcal vaccination
- c) A plan for engaging and partnering with large provider groups to ensure access to vaccination for provider members
  - d) Options to ensure ongoing access to meningococcal vaccines in DPH and DHS clinics

S:ES/Addressing Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) in At-Risk Groups