

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Meningitis Follow-Up Continues in Nebraska

McCook— Public health authorities throughout the United States are carefully tracking infectious complications related to the use of injectable pharmaceuticals produced by and shipped from the New England Compounding Center (NECC) in Framingham, Massachusetts. As of October 18, 2012, no evidence exists to confirm that Nebraska providers or facilities have received products known to be contaminated or implicated to have caused infections in patients elsewhere. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) continues to work with the State of Nebraska regarding this issue.

“Last week the State contacted several local health departments to work with them on verifying removal from inventory and to provide information for assessment, care and management of patients who had been administered NECC products. None of the products were shipped to southwest Nebraska,” states Myra Stoney, Director at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department.

The Center for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration continue to work closely with state public health departments in the multistate investigation of fungal meningitis and joint infections among patients who received a methylprednisolone acetate injection prepared by NECC. Some of these patients who received epidural injections also suffered strokes that may have resulted from their infection.

“The injections consisting of the methylprednisolone acetate is different from that of childhood and adult immunizations,” assures Jamey Keen, Public Health Nurse. “Methylprednisolone acetate is an adrenocortical steroid and not an immunization. In addition, the meningitis cases are not connected to the meningitis vaccine, a common immunization given to teens or young adults. These cases do not involve any routine immunizations.”

For up to date information about the case count and distribution, go to CDC’s website at www.cdc.gov. The State of Nebraska has additional information on the public health webpage under health alerts http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/han_archive.aspx#Advisories

You may also call SWNPHD at 308-345-4223 with any questions or concerns. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th Street, one block north of Arby’s in McCook, Nebraska, or e-mail Jamey Keen, Public Health Nurse at nurse@swhealth.ne.gov.

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