

# HEALTH ALERT



**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  
Skamania County Community Health, (509) 427-3850

**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.

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## HEALTH ALERT

Dec. 21, 2017

# Sixth case of Serogroup B Meningococcal Disease reported at Oregon State University (OSU)



### *Background and Action Requested*

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A 6<sup>th</sup> case of meningococcal disease was reported this week in an Oregon State University (OSU) undergraduate student. Vaccination is recommended for all OSU undergraduate students age of 25 and under. Additionally, OSU now requires incoming students age 25 and under to receive one of the two available series of meningococcal B vaccine. Winter break, which began December 9<sup>th</sup>, will continue through January 8<sup>th</sup>, so many students have returned home and could present for care far from Corvallis.

We urge healthcare providers and pharmacists to:

- Encourage vaccination and take every opportunity to vaccinate all OSU undergraduate students 25 years of age and under with a series of serogroup B meningococcal vaccine
- 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 used in response to a serogroup B meningococcal disease outbreak, ACIP recommends the 3-dose series to provide earlier protection and maximize the immune response. (The so-called 2-dose series of Trumenba® is **NOT** recommended in an outbreak.)
- The same vaccine must be used for all doses. They are not interchangeable, so the follow-up doses must be of the same brand as the initial dose. Please make sure that recipients are fully aware of the importance of knowing the brand name, and the dates and timing of follow-up doses. OSU has already held several vaccination clinics, so please clarify if the student has already received a first dose.
- Consider meningococcal disease in the differential diagnosis for college students — particularly students with links to OSU — presenting with unexplained high fever, headache, stiff neck, or rash.
- Please report any suspected cases promptly to your local public health department.

### *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>

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**Thank you for your partnership.**

| <b>LHJ</b>                                  | <b>Phone</b>   | <b>Fax</b>     |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Clark County Public Health:                 | (360) 397-8182 | (360) 397-8080 |
| 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 |