

Health Alerts

Health Advisory #195 - Meningitis Case in Erie County Student - 03/01/2007

Streptococcus pneumoniae Meningitis in an Erie County High School Student

SUMMARY

- A 14 year old student at St. Joseph's Collegiate Academy in Kenmore, NY diagnosed with bacterial meningitis due to Streptococcus pneumoniae infection died on Tuesday, February 27, 2007.
- The estimated annual incidence of Streptococcus pneumoniae meningitis in the United States is 1 to 2 cases per 100,000 population.
- Chemoprophylaxis of contacts is NOT recommended in cases of laboratory confirmed Streptococcus pneumoniae meningitis.
- Streptococcus pneumoniae infections are a common cause of respiratory infections, including pneumonia, otitis media, and sinusitis.
- Providers are encouraged to consider Streptococcus pneumoniae in their differential of fever associated with nasopharyngeal or respiratory tract infection.

Background:

On Tuesday, February 27, 2007, the Erie County Department of Health was notified of a patient diagnosed with meningitis due to infection with Streptococcus pneumoniae. The patient was admitted to a local hospital emergency department on Monday, February 26, 2007 and died on February 27, 2007. The deceased was a 14 year old male, who attended St. Joseph's Collegiate Academy in Kenmore, NY.

Parents of students attending St. Joseph's Collegiate Academy, Mt. Saint Mary's and Nardin Academy have been notified of this occurrence. The deceased went on a school trip to Canada with students from St. Joseph's and Mt. Saint Mary's during the winter break (February 21-February 25, 2007), and the deceased's sibling is a student at Nardin Academy.

Streptococcus pneumoniae infections are common, resulting in respiratory infections, otitis media, sinusitis, septicemia, and rarely, meningitis. Meningitis due to Streptococcus pneumoniae has an annual incidence of approximately 1 to 2 cases per 100,000 population in the United States. Chemoprophylaxis of contacts is not recommended. However, providers are encouraged to consider Streptococcus pneumoniae in their differential for patients presenting with symptoms consistent with infection.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact the Erie County Department of Health's Epidemiology and Surveillance program at 716-858-7697.

For additional information please visit the following link:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm