

# For Health Professionals

## Health Alerts

### Health Update #83 - Viral Meningitis Outbreak in Manhattan - May 25, 2004

NYC DOHMH is investigating clusters of viral meningitis at two New York City high schools. The first cluster consists of four students at LaGuardia High School, all of whom were hospitalized for aseptic meningitis. All children presented with fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, and/or photophobia. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was consistent with viral meningitis. All bacterial cultures have been negative. Dates of onset for this cluster were May 2 - May 18, 2004. One of the 4 students tested positive for enterovirus by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in CSF. Additional laboratory studies are pending at the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Laboratories. Initial investigation has revealed that the students are all acquaintances.

The second cluster consists of two students at Stuyvesant High School who also have been hospitalized with aseptic meningitis; these children had symptoms and laboratory findings similar to the students from the other cluster. Dates of onset were May 13 and May 17. These students are acquaintances and share a common close friend. No link between these students and the LaGuardia students has been identified. An enterovirus was isolated from a nasal swab taken from one of the Stuyvesant students. Further identification of this virus, as well as additional laboratory studies on both patients, are pending.

For more information about viral meningitis:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/enterovirus/viral\\_meningitis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/enterovirus/viral_meningitis.htm)

Clinicians should report cases to the Erie County Department of Health, Bureau of Disease Control at: (716) 858-7697 (Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM) or (716) 898-4225 (Weekends, evenings, and holidays).