



Epi Update for Friday, April 15, 2022

**Office of the Public Health Medical Director
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis**

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **CDC warning on source of lead in Kajal among resettled Afghan families**
- **Florida meningococcal disease outbreak highlights importance of vaccination**
- **Infographic: Meningococcal vaccines used in the United States**

CDC warning on source of lead in Kajal among resettled Afghan families

CDC has become aware that some Afghan families who have been resettled in the U.S. are using Kajal as an eyeliner (Kajal is pronounced kuh-jaal). Kajal can contain lead, and a sample from Fort McCoy in Wisconsin had 3,100 ppm of lead. FDA's limit for lead in cosmetics is <10 ppm. There are no reports at this time of any children with lead in their blood linked to Kajal use, but investigations are still underway.

CDC requests state and local health departments who have Afghan settlement communities in their jurisdictions work with health care providers, parents, and others to:

- raise awareness about childhood lead poisoning and its severe consequences.
- raise awareness among parents and caregivers about the lead poisoning risk of using Kajal.
- advise parents and caregivers not to use Kajal on children and keep them out of reach of children.
- get a blood lead test for children who were wearing Kajal eyeliner or who had other exposure to Kajal.

For more information about Kajal, visit www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3003848/.

For more information from CDC about lead screening for newly arrived refugees, visit www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/guidelines/lead-guidelines.html.

For more information about blood lead testing and other lead exposure sources in Iowa, visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention>.

Florida meningococcal disease outbreak highlights importance of vaccination

There is an ongoing outbreak of meningococcal disease in Florida, primarily among gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men, including those living with HIV. There have also been cases among college students reported in the state over the last few months, but at this time there is no evidence that these cases are related to the larger outbreak. Florida's increase in meningococcal disease cases is mostly affecting people who live in Florida but has also affected some people who have traveled to Florida.

In response to this outbreak, CDC is encouraging gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men (with or without HIV) to:

- get a MenACWY vaccine if they live in Florida.
- talk with their health care provider about getting a MenACWY vaccine if they are traveling to Florida.

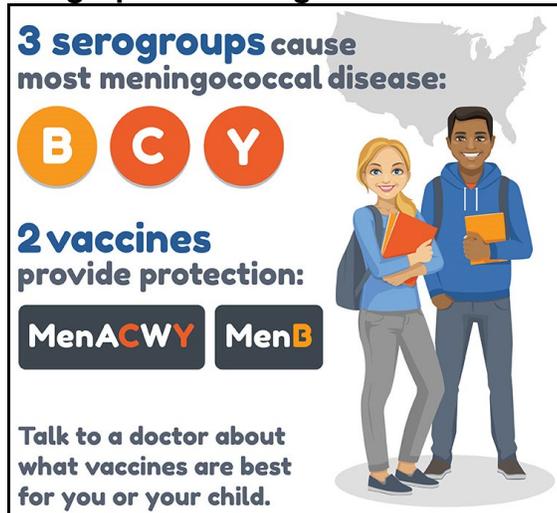
Ideally, people would get vaccinated with one dose (or the 2-dose series for people with HIV) at least 2 weeks before traveling.

CDC is also emphasizing the importance of routine MenACWY vaccination for people with HIV. People with HIV should make sure they have gotten their 2-dose primary series of a MenACWY vaccine and are up to date with booster doses.

Importantly, MenB vaccines are available to any teen or young adult 16 through 23 years old who is interested in getting vaccinated. College campuses have reported outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease in recent years.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/outbreaks/FL2022.html.

Infographic: Meningococcal vaccines used in the United States



To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/images/three-serogroups.jpg.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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