

Outbreak of Meningococcal Disease in MSM

July 2016



What is Meningococcal Disease?

Meningococcal disease is a rare, but serious infection that can cause meningitis (brain infection) and/or bacteremia (blood infection), and can lead to death. Recently, there has been an increase in meningococcal disease among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Southern California.

How do you get it?

Meningococcal disease is caused by a bacteria that is transmitted from person-to-person through respiratory droplets (like saliva or spit) during face-to-face or prolonged contact, or by sharing utensils, drinks, or cigarettes.

What can I do to protect myself?

Orange County Health Care Agency recommends that **all gay, bisexual, other men who have sex with men, and persons with HIV infection** get vaccinated for meningococcal disease.

How can I get the vaccine?

If you have insurance, talk to your doctor about getting vaccinated.

If you don't have insurance or your insurance doesn't cover the vaccine, you may qualify to get vaccinated at low or no cost. There are two clinics at **1725 W. 17th Street in Santa Ana** that offer the vaccine:

- If you just need the vaccine, go to the **Immunization Clinic**:
Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.)
- If you need the vaccine and STD and/or HIV testing, go to **Testing, Treatment and Care Clinic**:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Call (800) 564-8448 for more information.



Public Health Services