

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS **COMMUNICATION** FOR PHYSICIANS

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To view previous MHO UPDATES, go to:

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/MHO/Pages/MHOUpdates.aspx>

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Update on Invasive Meningococcal disease in the Okanagan Region

Interior Health declared an outbreak of Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) in 15-19 year olds living in the Okanagan on Thursday, December 14, 2017. As outlined previously, 5 cases of meningococcal disease were identified in the Okanagan over a six month period. One case was associated with a death (meningococcal disease contributed to death).

Approximately 13,000 doses of meningococcal Quadrivalent vaccine have been provided to youth aged 15-19 in the Okanagan over the past few weeks, and we are continuing our efforts to maximize the immunization coverage for this age group.

- On December 26, 2017, a new case of IMD was confirmed in the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap Region. This case has the same serotype as previous Okanagan cases.
- The IH Population Health team has reviewed all available information and decided to continue the immunization plan currently in place in the Okanagan Region. At this time there will be no change in the eligible age group offered the publicly funded meningococcal vaccine, nor the geographic area of coverage.
- We will continue to closely monitor the situation and will inform you if a new decision is made regarding the expansion of eligible age groups or geographical regions.
- We encourage all physicians across Interior Health to continue to be vigilant regarding the signs and symptoms of IMD and to notify the Medical Health Officer at 1-866-457-5648 with suspect cases.
- For Okanagan physicians, please continue to encourage all 15-19 year old patients to get immunized. For more information about the meningococcal outbreak in the Okanagan please visit the following web link:

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/Pages/Meningococcal-Outbreak.aspx>

- Persons who are not eligible for publicly funded Quadrivalent vaccine and wish to purchase it should be directed to a travel clinic.