

Communicable Disease Control & Prevention 101 Grove Street, Room 408 San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: (415) 554-2830 Fax: (415) 554-2848 www.sfdph.org/cdcp

HEALTH UPDATE

OCTOBER 26, 2006

N. MENINGITIDIS SURVEILLANCE RESULTS – CALIFORNIA AND ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – SAN FRANCISCO 2004-05

CA Surveillance Data Highlight Usefulness of PCR in Detecting Invasive Meningococcal Disease

In February 2005, as part of a state-wide effort, we asked San Francisco clinicians and laboratories to submit samples from patients with suspected invasive meningococcal disease for special analysis.

- For culture-negative patients with suspected invasive meningococcal disease, clinical specimens were subjected to PCR testing for *N. meningitidis*.
- For culture-positive patients, the *N. meningitidis* bacterial isolates underwent molecular strain identification using multilocus variable number tandem repeat analysis (MVLA).

View the surveillance report on the Health Alerts page at www.sfdph.org/cdcp . Key findings were:

- Of 128 culture-negative clinical specimens received, 71 (55%) were positive by PCR.
- In 28 patients with clinically suspected disease, the state PCR assay provided the sole source of laboratory diagnosis of *N. meningitidis* and was therefore valuable in confirming meningococcal disease.
- The 2005 meningococcal disease incidence was 0.5 cases per 100,000 Californians.
- The following serotypes were detected: A (<1%), B (43%), C (36%), W-135 (2%), and Y (17%).
- MVLA strain typing helped to establish the relatedness or non-relatedness of several case clusters

Of 361 samples tested statewide, San Francisco contributed 21 samples from 15 San Francisco residents. We thank you for your participation in this effort.

San Francisco Dept. of Public Health Releases 1st Annual Report on Communicable Diseases

In August 2006 we released the first Annual Report of Communicable Diseases in San Francisco, 2004-2005.

The report provides city-specific incidence of many communicable diseases. The report also includes sex-specific, age-specific, and race/ethnicity-specific incidence data for 21 selected diseases of public health importance. View the report on the Data & Publications page or Health Alerts page at www.sfdph.org/cdcp.

As you may know, reports sent to us by local clinicians and laboratories are our primary source for identifying cases of communicable disease. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of your efforts to report communicable disease cases to us. These data are essential to our efforts to prevent and control communicable diseases in the community.

You can reach us by phone 24/7 at (415) 554-2830. The list of California legally-notifiable communicable diseases, and instructions for reporting, may be found on the Disease Reporting page at www.sfdph.org/cdcp.

This Health Update is posted on the SFDPH website at www.sfdph.org/healthalert

Categories of urgency levels