



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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**Prevention and Health Promotion Administration**

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**Laboratory Guidance**

1. Patients who are suspected of having meningitis, basilar stroke or spinal osteomyelitis as a result of injection with methylprednisolone acetate should undergo a lumbar puncture (LP), unless contraindicated.
2. The cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) should be processed and analyzed using your facility's routine protocols and clinical laboratory.
3. The healthcare facility should decide, based on the diagnostic workup, whether the patient meets one of the following CDC case definitions:
  - A person with meningitis of sub-acute onset (1-4 weeks) following epidural injection since July 1, 2012. Meningitis means one or more of the following symptoms: headache, fever, stiff neck, or photophobia **and** a CSF profile consistent with meningitis (elevated protein/low glucose/pleocytosis)
  - A person, who has not received a lumbar puncture, with basilar stroke 1-4 weeks following epidural injection since July 1, 2012.
  - A person with evidence of spinal osteomyelitis or epidural abscess at the site of an epidural injection diagnosed 1-4 weeks after epidural injection since July 1, 2012.
4. If the patient meets the case definition, the healthcare provider should contact the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response (OIDEOR) to report that they have a suspect case. Call 410-767-6700 during regular business hours; call 410-795-7365 after hours. Please note that Monday, October 6 is Columbus Day, and the after-hours number should be used.
5. If OIDEOR recommends that CSF should be submitted to DHMH:
  - 10 mL CSF, ideally, or whatever CSF is available, unspun, fresh, unadulterated, preferably from Tubes 3-4.
  - Send as soon as possible; however if the CSF must be held, keep it refrigerated and send on ice packs with the DHMH laboratory submission slip.
  - On the lab slip, ensure the authorizing physician is identified and complete contact information is filled out.
  - On the lab slip, include outbreak number 2012-242.
  - On the lab slip, under category "Other Tests for Infectious Agents", write "CSF" for Test Name and write "Mycology" in the line below.
  - Under Specimen Code, circle "CSF Cerebrospinal Fluid"

Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response (OIDEOR)

October 5, 2012

201 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-767-6742 Fax 410-333-5995

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH TTY for Disabled

Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

500 N. Calvert Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

410-767-5227 • Fax 410-333-6333 • TDD for Disabled 410-333-4800

Toll Free 1-800-358-9001 • TTY for Disabled

Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: <http://ideha.dhmh.maryland.gov> or <http://fha.dhmh.maryland.gov/>

