

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	NC DISEASE CODE	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
MENINGITIS, PNEUMOCOCCAL	25	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Pneumococcal Disease in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Pneumococcal Disease in the CD Manual. • Study the APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 423 – 425. • Print and review reporting forms: <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Meningitis, Pneumococcal (DHHS/EPI # 25)</i></p>	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s) and discharge summary). • Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. 	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. • Obtain a copy of the lab report identifying <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> from CSF or positive antigen test for <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> from CSF. • If organism is in the blood or other sterile site and clinical presentation is consistent with meningitis, count as a case. • If organism not yet identified, request stat testing with results expected within a few hours, not days. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. • Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is necessary. • Realize that negative cultures taken after the initiation of antibiotics may be unreliable. 	
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria. 	

IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES	
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure. (NOTE: Specific source rarely identified in pneumococcal meningitis.) • If potential source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient/contacts to obtain a detailed assessment of potential sources.
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage contacts by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ monitoring for 2 incubation periods. ○ educating or counseling contacts regarding transmission, symptoms and need to seek immediate care if symptoms develop. ○ educating or counseling contacts that prophylaxis not indicated except possibly in a cluster or outbreak situation. • Use the CDC website www.cdc.gov to teach at risk people about the disease.
REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. • Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. • Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record.
CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the course of the investigation, look for symptoms of the disease in other exposed individuals. • Refer symptomatic individuals to physician/health care provider for immediate evaluation.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinate appropriate populations however vaccination is not necessary for investigation and follow-up.
RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using risk communication tools for public and health professionals. • Outbreaks of cases will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release. • Realize that some persons seeking prophylaxis will not meet public health criteria for prophylaxis. • NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.