

October 4, 2012

TO: Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Healthcare Facilities, Pharmacists, Local Health Departments (LHDs), HIV and Ryan White Providers and other Public Health Partners

FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Division of Epidemiology

**HEALTH ADVISORY: MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
HIV-INFECTED MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN**

**Please distribute to the Emergency Department, Infectious Disease,
Primary Care, HIV Clinic, Pharmacy, Medical Director, Director of Nursing,
and all patient care areas.**

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has been coordinating with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH) regarding their recent recommendations for meningococcal vaccine for HIV-infected men who have sex with men (attached).

NYSDOH is extending this recommendation for residents outside of NYC who had intimate contact with a man in New York City, met either through an online website, smart phone app, bar, or party since September 1, 2012.

Patients should first check with their usual HIV care provider to ask if they have vaccine and to schedule an appointment to be immunized. If the patient does not have an HIV care provider or if the patient's usual medical provider does not currently have vaccine, patients can visit <http://goo.gl/ATJ4E> to identify a site where they can be vaccinated and/or obtain HIV care. Local Health Departments (LHDs) may also have vaccine available and contact information is available at <http://goo.gl/FBccq>.

In order to help monitor the success of the meningococcal vaccination program, facilities and providers should consider reporting administered vaccine doses to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). Whereas reporting of immunizations given to persons 18 years of age and younger is mandatory, facilities and providers must obtain written patient consent to use NYSIIS for persons 19 and older. Sample consent forms are available at <http://goo.gl/pWd1G> and reporting assistance is available by contacting NYSIIS at 518-473-2839.

Vaccine costs and administration are reimbursable through the New York State Medicaid program and AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Clinicians with questions regarding this information should contact the NYSDOH AIDS Institute Office of the Medical Director at 212-417-4536.