

# LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

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

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