

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Chief Medical Officer of Health

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**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

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August 19, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Medical Officers of Health and Associate Medical Officers of Health

RE: Meningitis World Scout Jamboree in Japan

The purpose of this memorandum is to share information about cases of meningitis caused by meningococcal bacteria associated with the 2015 World Scout Jamboree in Japan. As of today, there have been cases reported in Scotland (3 confirmed) and Sweden (1 confirmed, 2 probable) among attendees of the Jamboree. To date, no other cases have been reported by other jurisdictions, including Canada

From July 18 - August 8, 2015, the World Scout Jamboree took place in Yamaguchi City, Japan. The event targeted 14 - 17 year olds, with approximately 36,000 teenagers from 151 countries attending. The Public Health Agency of Canada has indicated that there were 386 Canadian participants at the event, 143 of whom were from Ontario.

More information is known about the Scottish cases than those reported in Sweden. We know that the three cases from Scotland have been admitted to the hospital, were treated with antibiotics and are all recovering well. Two of these cases have been identified as being caused by serotype W and serogroup information on the other case is pending.

We appreciate this news may cause some anxiety among the families of attendees, but at this time we believe the risk to both attendees and the general public in Ontario is low.

Ontario students are vaccinated against four serogroups of meningococcal disease in grade 7, including serogroup W, and coverage for this vaccine in the province is relatively high. All Ontario attendees should have already received quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine as part of the mandatory Grade 7 school-based immunization program. There have been no cases of serogroup W meningococcal disease reported in Ontario to date in 2015.

We encourage local public health units to continue to promote the meningococcal immunization among school-age adolescence and educate local providers of the signs and symptoms as outlined in the ministry information sheet. To support this work, the ministry has updated its factsheet on meningococcal disease. This factsheet is attached for your reference and will be posted on the ministry's website.

The ministry has been working closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to collect more information from international partners about this event. The ministry is also working with PHAC to share information about these cases and the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease with Scouts Canada who can relay the information to their Ontarian members. PHAC issued a Public Health Notice about this event today to national surveillance partners which you may have received.

The ministry and Public Health Ontario (PHO) will continue to monitor this evolving situation, including any testing requests sent to Public Health Ontario Laboratories. I will share additional updates as they become available.

Please share this information with your public health unit staff and local providers in your jurisdiction. If you have any questions from a scientific or technical perspective, please contact the Immunization and Vaccine Preventable Disease Team at Public Health Ontario at ivpd@oahpp.ca. If you have any questions from a policy or programs perspective please contact Pam Sethi, Nurse Consultant, Public Health Policy and Programs Branch of the ministry at Pam.Sethi@ontario.ca

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David C. Williams, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health

Attachment

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