



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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John R. Kasich / Governor

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director of Health

November 6, 2012

Dear Patient:

A few weeks ago I sent you a letter because you had been identified as a patient who may have been given an injection of a potentially contaminated steroid medication. Since that time, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio local health jurisdictions have continued to collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the investigation of a multistate outbreak of fungal meningitis and other infections among patients who received contaminated steroid injections. While this investigation is on-going, it has been found that in this outbreak symptoms have typically appeared one to four weeks following injection with a dose of the recalled medication. However, it is important to know that longer periods of time between injection and the onset of symptoms have been reported. It is not known for certain when the risk for the development of an infection has passed. At this time, public health recommends that patients continue to closely watch for the development of symptoms for an indefinite period of time following the injection.

Patients and clinicians need to remain vigilant for the onset of symptoms, because fungal infections can be slow to develop. Symptoms to watch for include new or worsening headache; fever; sensitivity to light; stiff neck; back pain; new weakness or numbness in any part of the body; slurred speech; and increased pain, redness or swelling at the injection site. Patients need to be aware that even mild symptoms (such as a mild headache or slightly worsened back pain) should necessitate a medical evaluation. If you received the potentially contaminated steroid medication, seek medical attention immediately if you have symptoms.

Additional information about this outbreak investigation, including guidance for patients, can be found at the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/patients/index.html>. If you have other questions, please contact your physician or your local health department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Theodore E. Wymyslo'.

Theodore E. Wymyslo, MD
Director of Health