



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UNIT

To: All Health Care Providers in Santa Cruz County
From: Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH, Health Officer
Subject: Recent Meningitis Activity
Date: July 17, 2015

INCIDENT

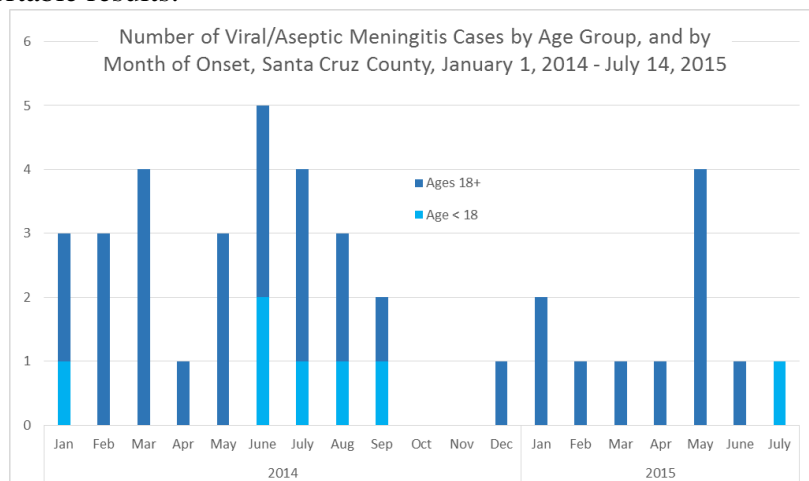
A 10 year-old Santa Cruz County resident died of suspected viral encephalitis last week. The child presented with symptoms of and was diagnosed with meningitis.

To date, extensive laboratory testing has not identified any causal organisms. There has been community concern regarding this case however there are no Public Health actions required of providers at this time.

INFORMATION

Viral meningitis, a provider reportable condition, is a syndrome characterized by acute onset of meningeal symptoms, fever, and cerebrospinal fluid pleocytosis.

A review of countywide data does not demonstrate a current increase of reported viral meningitis (Figure 1). Cases of viral meningitis may be under-reported due to the lack of laboratory reportable results.



Local public health officials rely on healthcare providers and laboratories to report the occurrence of notifiable diseases. Without such data, trends cannot be accurately monitored, unusual occurrences of diseases might not be detected, and the effectiveness of intervention activities cannot be easily evaluated.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We want to remind medical providers of their legal mandate to report all suspected viral encephalitis and meningitis cases to the local public health department within 1 working day of identification per the Title 17, California Code of Regulations §2500.

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/Documents/Reportable_Diseases_Conditions.pdf).

Confidential Morbidity Reports of cases should be sent to the Santa Cruz County Communicable Disease Unit

<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/Portals/7/Pdfs/PH%20Reporting/cdph110a.pdf>)