



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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FUNGAL INFECTIONS: VDH OUTREACH TO PATIENTS WHO RECEIVED INJECTIONS WITH CONTAMINATED PRODUCT

March 21, 2013

Dear Colleague:

This letter is being sent to physicians in southwestern Virginia to inform you of planned outreach by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to the patients who received epidural spinal injections containing contaminated steroid from the New England Compounding Center. The intent of the outreach is to ensure that these patients know that they may still be at risk of developing a localized fungal infection at the site of their injection(s).

Over the next 2-3 weeks, VDH will be taking two actions:

- Local health district directors will send a letter to individuals who received an epidural spinal injection AND who have not previously been reported as having a fungal infection associated with this outbreak. The letter will advise them of the potential signs and symptoms of a localized infection and ask them, in partnership with their physicians, to remain watchful.
- As part of our ongoing public health surveillance activities, health department staff will call each patient. During the phone call we will ask if they have symptoms that may be indicative of a localized infection and ask about their healthcare encounters for symptoms or concerns related to their exposure to the contaminated steroid.

As detailed in our March 5, 2012 letter to you, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [updated their guidance](#) and urges clinicians to maintain vigilance for fungal infections among patients who received contaminated steroid injections.

We sincerely thank you for your assistance in ensuring the health of Virginians during this outbreak. If you have questions about VDH's outreach activities, please contact my office at (804) 864-7554. Please contact your local health department to report suspect cases or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

David H. Trump, MD, MPH, MPA
State Epidemiologist & Director, Office of Epidemiology