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# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

## St. Clair County Health Department

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TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, ED Physicians, Walk-in Clinics, OB/GYN

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### **DISSEMINATED GONOCOCCAL INFECTION CLUSTER INVESTIGATION**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is working with several southwest Michigan health departments and with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to investigate a cluster of disseminated gonococcal infections (DGI); there are currently 17 cases identified, twelve of which have a common genomic profile. CDC has also received increasing reports of DGI from other states. As this is an ongoing situation, **CDC has requested heightened surveillance and investigation of all new cases of DGI.**

DGI is an uncommon but sometimes severe complication of untreated gonorrhea. Infection leads to clinical manifestations like septic arthritis, polyarthralgia, tenosynovitis, petechial/pustular skin lesions, bacteremia, or, rarely, endocarditis or meningitis. Most Michigan cases were identified through emergency room or outpatient clinics through culture of synovial fluid collected from a septic joint, or from tissue or blood cultures.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Adhere to CDC's recommendations by always treating uncomplicated gonorrhea promptly with a **combination of Ceftriaxone 250 milligram intramuscular injection and Azithromycin 1 gram orally**, including post-treatment testing to confirm cure when recommended ([www.cdc.gov/std/treatment](http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment)).
- **Alert St. Clair County Health Department if DGI is suspected. Prior to treatment, providers should order gonorrhea cultures or NAAT testing at all potential sites (urogenital, pharyngeal, and rectal).** Hospitalization and consultation with an infectious disease specialist are recommended for initial therapy.
- Re-test in 90 days given likelihood of re-exposure and in third trimester if pregnant.
- Sex partners in past 60 days should be seen for evaluation, testing and presumptive treatment as infected sex partners of DGI cases are often asymptomatic.

**To report suspected or diagnosed cases within 24 hours, or if you have questions, call SCCHD at (810) 987-5300**

The Privacy Rule in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) allows for the disclosure of protected health information, without individual client or patient authorization, to public health authorities, who are legally authorized to receive such reports for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease.