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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Medication recall related to meningitis outbreak is expanded

Newly recalled products not implicated in outbreak; recall includes products sent to Alaska

ANCHORAGE — The company that distributed a medication associated with an outbreak of meningitis in the Lower 48 has recalled all products compounded at and distributed from one of its facilities as a precautionary measure. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said some of the products in this precautionary recall came to Alaska.

None of the medication implicated in the meningitis outbreak has come to Alaska, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said.

The FDA had previously issued guidance for medical professionals that all products distributed by New England Compounding Pharmacy, Inc. d/b/a New England Compounding Center (NECC) should be retained and secured. While there is no indication at this time of any contamination in other NECC products, they are being recalled out of an abundance of caution.

The FDA, the CDC and the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy are investigating the outbreak and potential risk of contamination.

“Alaska has had no reported meningitis cases associated with the implicated product,” said State Epidemiologist Dr. Joe McLaughlin. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services will continue to monitor the situation and notify the public if any Alaska cases are identified.

The Alaska providers who received medications on the precautionary recall list have been notified to return them.

The Lower 48 outbreak is associated with pain medication injected into the spine. As of today, the outbreak comprises 91 cases in nine states, with seven deaths.

For more information about the outbreak, visit www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/meningitis.html.

For more information about the recall, visit www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm322901.htm.

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