

CDC DGMH Investigation Overview

The following guidelines provide an overview of the steps to complete a CDC Division of Global Migration Health (DGMH) contact investigation. DGMH notifications are sent to state SME's when a person is found to have been infectious with a highly pathogenic or high consequence communicable disease during a flight. Information is gathered from the airline, and respective contact information for exposed individuals is sent to each state. Measles, pertussis, meningococcal disease, and mpox are all examples of vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) that may warrant a DGMH notification.

Several steps must work together to ensure exposed individuals do not become ill, and early notification is preferred so exposed individuals know what to look for and actions to take if they do develop symptoms. Investigation of these contacts is essential due to the high infectious nature of the pathogens and attempts to contact the exposed individuals should begin as soon as possible. Post-exposure prophylaxis should be made available when appropriate.

The state VPD team will call or email to notify you of a DGMH notification for exposed individuals in your county. You will be sent a contact list, which will include contact information for the exposed individual(s), as well as a CDC Outcome Reporting Form. These will be sent encrypted or password protected due to PII. The CDC Outcome Reporting Form must be returned to the VPD team for submission to CDC. If challenges arise when attempting to complete the outcome reporting form, please contact the VPD team. Although you will be in contact with the VPD team throughout this process, the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch (919-733-3419) is always available for guidance.

Basic Steps of a DGMH Follow Up Investigation

1. Review disease	- The following are diseases that may be included in DGMH notifications, as well as criteria for who is considered exposed: <u>Measles</u> (most common): all traveling companions of the infected person; all children younger than two; individuals seated in the same row as the infected person as well as the two rows in front of and behind the infected person <u>Pertussis</u>: all traveling companions of the infected person; individuals seated in the same row as an infected individual <u>Meningococcal disease</u>: individuals seated on either side of the infected person for flights $\geq$ eight hours; individuals seated within one seat in any direction from an infected person on a flight of any duration if the infected person was coughing or vomiting during the flight <u>Mpox</u>: individuals in nearby seating that may have been exposed to lesions
2. Residency	- Ensure address falls within your county - If address happens to be outside of your jurisdiction, please let the VPD team know as soon as possible.
3. Immunization record	- Look up immunization record in NCIR - If contact list is large, this can help prioritize individuals to notify first
4. Contact the exposed person(s)	- Verify individual was on the flight as well as seat number - Let person(s) know they were exposed to a communicable disease while aboard the flight - Verify immunization status or recommend post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) - Review typical clinical presentation, as well as what mild illness may look like for a vaccinated individual (if applicable) - Ask them to monitor for symptoms until the end of possible incubation period, and let them know you will follow up at the end of that time - Pertussis, 21 days - Measles, 21 days - Meningococcal disease, 10 days - Mpox, 17 days - If measles exposure, convey importance of contacting LHD if symptoms arise and not to go to ED without calling ahead - May consider asking if the individual was wearing a mask - Ask about immunocompromising conditions, pregnancy, or occupational risks - May need to recommend PEP
5. Symptomatic individuals	- If individual is symptomatic, refer to healthcare provider if indicated - Ensure individual understands severity and importance of isolation / quarantine (as applicable to the disease)
6. Follow up	- Follow up after last day of possible incubation period - Ensure contact is still asymptomatic - Thank them for their cooperation - Complete CDC Outcome Reporting Form and send (protected) to state VPD team