

The following message was sent to you through the Alaska Public Health Alert Network (AK PHAN). Please share this information with others who may be interested.

Note: Contact information for the Alaska Section of Epidemiology can be found at the end of this message.

The Alaska Section of Epidemiology would like to share two recent CDC Health Alert Network messages regarding infectious diseases.

COVID-19 Therapeutics

With the loss of bebtelovimab as a treatment option for COVID-19 due to viral resistance, clinicians are reminded in this HAN that the oral direct acting antivirals (i.e., PAXLOVID and molnupiravir) remain active and are widely available for facilities at no cost from the Federal Government.

This is an official CDC HEALTH ADVISORY

Important Updates on COVID-19 Therapeutics for Treatment and Prevention

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network
December 20, 2022, 5:45 PM ET
CDCHAN-00483

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Update to supplement the CDC HAN Health Advisories issued on [April 25, 2022](#) and [May 24, 2022](#) to emphasize to healthcare providers, public health departments, and the public that the majority of Omicron sublineages circulating in the United States have reduced susceptibility to the monoclonal antibody, bebtelovimab and the monoclonal antibody combination, cilgavimab and tixagevimab (Evusheld™).

[Antiviral therapeutics](#) for the [treatment of COVID-19](#), [ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir \(Paxlovid™\)](#), [remdesivir \(Veklury®\)](#), and [molnupiravir \(Lagevrio™\)](#), retain activity against currently circulating Omicron sublineages. These medications can prevent severe disease, hospitalization, and death and are widely available but have been underused.

This HAN Health Update provides health care professionals, public health officials, and the public with guidance on improving use of therapeutics for treatment of COVID-19 and strategies to prevent serious outcomes of COVID-19.

Link to full HAN is here: https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/pdf/CDC_HAN_483.pdf

Invasive Group A Streptococcal (iGAS) Infections

Invasive group A streptococcal (iGAS) infections are reportable to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology. Alaska laboratories should route GAS isolates to the CDC Arctic Investigations Program laboratory in Anchorage.

This is an official CDC HEALTH ADVISORY

Increase in Pediatric Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infections

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network

December 22, 2022, 1:45 PM ET

CDCHAN-00484

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to notify clinicians and public health authorities of a recent increase in pediatric invasive group A streptococcal (iGAS) infections. In November 2022, CDC was notified of a possible increase in iGAS infections among children at a hospital in Colorado. Potential increases in pediatric iGAS cases in other states were subsequently noted by contributors to the Infectious Diseases Society of America's provider-based [Emerging Infections Network](#) and by certain jurisdictions participating in CDC's [Active Bacterial Core Surveillance System \(ABCs\)](#). This increased number of pediatric iGAS cases in some jurisdictions has occurred in the setting of increased circulation of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2, and other respiratory viruses. While the overall number of cases has remained relatively low and iGAS infections remain rare in children, CDC is investigating these reports.

This Health Advisory highlights the recent rise in iGAS infections in children, the increased seasonal risk of iGAS disease for all age groups, and the importance of early recognition, diagnosis, and appropriate treatment of these diseases in children and adults.

Link to full HAN is here: https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/pdf/CDC_HAN_484.pdf