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November 3, 2015

Dr. Steve Hadler
Director, Division of Bacterial Diseases
National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd., MS A-31
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Hadler:

The Illinois Department of Public Health has identified a cluster of Group A *Streptococcus* cases in a long term care facility in Sangamon County, Illinois. These infections began in February, 2015 and have resulted in 69 group A streptococcal positive individuals since that time. There have been 12 invasive cases in residents with 4 deaths. Despite infection control measures implemented by the facility, screening cultures and implementation of mass treatment, invasive group A streptococcal infections continue to occur. The latest positive culture was on October 26.

IDPH is requesting assistance with the following objectives:

1. To evaluate the causes and extent of the ongoing Group A *Streptococcus* outbreak, including risk factors for carriage and infection among residents and staff.
2. To assess current infection control practices and provide recommendations for enhanced infection control to halt further spread of Group A *Streptococcus* in the facility
3. To identify other measures and actions to control the outbreak which may include, performing additional screening for Group A streptococcal carriage, assessing Group A *Streptococcus* disease incidence in the community, and implementing treatment to protect facility residents and staff.

Therefore, we are requesting technical assistance from CDC to investigate this cluster of group A *Streptococcus* cases that might include a variety of activities. The Illinois Department of Public Health will retain ownership of all data collected. IDPH does not have the capacity to do Group A *Streptococcus* testing at their laboratory.

Sincerely,

Connie Austin D.V.M., M.P.H., Ph.D.
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