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March 17, 2016

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 Chicago Department of Health has identified a cluster of Group A *Streptococcus* cases in a long term care facility in Chicago, Illinois. These infections began in August 2015 and have resulted in 9 group A streptococcal positive individuals since that time. There have been 5 invasive cases in residents with one death. Despite infection control measures implemented by the facility and screening cultures, invasive group A streptococcal infections continue to occur. The latest positive culture was on March 10, 2016.

CDOH and IDPH are 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 Chicago Department of Health will be the lead agency and will retain ownership of all data collected. IDPH does not have the capacity to do Group A *Streptococcus* testing at their laboratory. Unfortunately, due to other situations occurring in Illinois we will not be able to offer personnel to assist in the investigation.

Sincerely,

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