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Public Health Advisory – Rheumatic Fever

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SITUATION

The County of Riverside Department of Public Health (DOPH) is collaborating with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to investigate four reports of acute rheumatic fever (ARF). Four potential cases were identified by a cardiologist at Loma Linda University Medical Center. Two cases are considered confirmed; one is a probable case, and the fourth has information still pending. There may be additional cases that were unrecognized.

Acute rheumatic fever is a serious non-suppurative complication of group A streptococcus infection and is most common in children ages 5-16. The cases under investigation are in children aged 8-10. Two of the individuals reside in Riverside County. The number of cases of ARF in the US has dropped significantly over the past 55 years, making the four potential cases unusual.

ACTION REQUESTED OF PROVIDERS

Although the information is incomplete at this time, providers are asked to report suspect cases to Disease Control by fax at (951) 358-5102. It is requested that pertinent medical records be provided (e.g., H&P, MD progress notes/consults, bacterial culture results), and if the patient was hospitalized, the discharge summary.

ICD9 codes of interest include:

391.0-391.2; 391.8-391.9 392.0 and 392.9 as well as 397.9; 398.0; 398.90-398.91 and 398-99.

Your assistance with this enhanced surveillance is greatly appreciated. Please contact Disease Control at (951) 358-5107 for questions.