



## Kentucky Department for Public Health Frequently Asked Questions About Vaccination-Associated Infections in Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana in Late 2018

- ◆ **Who is at risk for the vaccine-associated infection?**
  - Persons who were vaccinated by Location Vaccination may be at risk of infection or reaction at the site of injection (area on body where shot was given). Location Vaccination is based in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky and operated by Fairshinda Sabounchi McLaughlin under the medical license of Dr. Paul E. McLaughlin.
- ◆ **Where were the vaccinations given?**
  - Vaccinations were given almost exclusively at various businesses in Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana. Most businesses are located in central Kentucky, but Location Vaccination also provided services in other areas of the Commonwealth. These vaccination events were not public events, but were provided for the benefit of employees of the businesses and sometimes their families.
- ◆ **When were the vaccinations given?**
  - The affected vaccines were given between September 1, 2018 and December 5, 2018. The provider is no longer vaccinating and there is no ongoing risk that people will receive vaccination from Location Vaccination.
- ◆ **Which vaccines were given?**
  - Reactions have been associated with people who received the flu vaccine, hepatitis A vaccine, the pneumococcal vaccine and Tdap vaccine.
- ◆ **Do other providers or pharmacies have contaminated vaccines?**
  - No. Vaccines were contaminated after Location Vaccination received the vaccine, due to improper storage and handling of the vaccine by Location Vaccination staff.
  - There is no reason to believe that vaccines received by other providers are contaminated or unsafe. No vaccine manufacturing issues have been identified or suggested by this investigation.
- ◆ **What symptoms are occurring?**
  - People with these vaccination-related infections have experienced one or more of the following: redness, pain or tenderness, swelling that may feel fluid-filled when pressed, an open, draining wound or the development of a hard lump or knot at the injection site.
- ◆ **What should I do if I develop symptoms?**
  - Those who were vaccinated by Location Vaccination should contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) at (502) 564-3418.
  - Individuals with symptoms should see their doctors. These infections can be difficult to treat and would not be expected to get better on their own. DPH can provide a letter for your doctor detailing the appropriate testing.
- ◆ **How long should individuals watch for symptoms of infection?**
  - Symptoms may appear within a few days or up to several months after vaccination.
- ◆ **Will the vaccine I received protect me from illness?**

- There is evidence that vaccines given by Location Vaccination may not be effective. Persons who received these vaccines may not be fully protected against the diseases for which they were vaccinated. Even if you do not experience a reaction, DPH recommends revaccination in order to ensure that you are fully immunized.
- ◆ **Is it safe to receive a second vaccine so soon?**
  - Yes. Repeating a vaccination that is suspected to not be effective is safe and ensures you are fully immune to the disease. Even if the first vaccine was effective, an additional vaccination would not be harmful.
- ◆ **Are vaccines given by other providers safe and effective?**
  - Yes. Modern vaccines are safe and effective. The ongoing investigation has determined that these infections are a result of improper storage and handling by Location Vaccination, not unsafe vaccine supply. DPH continues to strongly encourage vaccination to protect against all vaccine-preventable diseases, such as hepatitis A and flu.