



National Office
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

June 8, 2022

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear CDC:

I am writing in regard to a potential increase in pediatric brain abscesses, epidural empyemas, and subdural empyemas associated with *Streptococcus* species. In May 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was notified of three children at a hospital system in California with brain abscess, epidural empyema, or subdural empyema caused by *S. intermedius*. An initial investigation identified additional health systems in multiple states that similarly reported a possible increase over baseline in Streptococcal brain abscesses and intracranial infections over the past year; these cases often followed episodes of sinusitis or upper respiratory infection. These cases span multiple states and territories, and therefore will require a coordinated multi-state and jurisdictional investigation, as well as specialized assistance and resources to adequately respond. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) strongly supports a centrally coordinated multi-state and jurisdictional investigation of the potential increase in pediatric brain abscesses, epidural empyemas, and subdural empyemas and recommends multi-state technical assistance from the CDC.

A multi-state coordinated investigation of these infections will assist each state/local/territory jurisdiction in making rapid, practical decisions for actions to prevent and control the public health problem. This approach will streamline and strengthen the response, as opposed to multiple state and jurisdictional investigations independently assessing this concern and developing their own investigation.

Each jurisdiction participating in the multi-jurisdictional response would retain ownership of and is responsible for all data collected within their state.

Sincerely,

Janet Hamilton, MPH
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists