

Blast Communication

***(The important information below has been provided to us by the Georgia Department of Public Health:
Cluster of preschool and school-aged children with cervical and/or submandibular lymphadenitis)***

Pediatricians in the Atlanta metropolitan area have identified a cluster of preschool and school-aged children with cervical and/or submandibular lymphadenitis. All children have a history of a previous dental procedure (deciduous tooth removal and/or pulpotomy with crown placement). The etiologic agent in a majority of children is a non-tuberculous mycobacterium, *Mycobacterium abscessus*. The Georgia Department of Public Health is working with the dentist offices to investigate these infections.

We ask that clinical providers question parents of preschool and school-aged children in the Atlanta metropolitan area with oral abscesses or cervical or submandibular lymphadenitis about a history of pulpotomy and/or extraction in the preceding 6 months. If a positive history of these dental procedures is obtained, we ask that the provider contact the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Transfer Center at 404-785-7778 and request to speak with the infectious disease service on call at either the Scottish Rite or Egleston campus to discuss the patient and assist with management. Information on possible cases or questions about the investigation should be referred to the Georgia Department of Public Health, Acute Disease Epidemiology Section at 404-657-2588.

Harry Keyserling, MD
Chair, Infectious Disease Committee

For questions or concerns regarding this blastfax or any other immunization information, please contact the Chapter's Immunization Coordinator, Mike Chaney at (404) 881-5094 or mchaney@gaaap.org