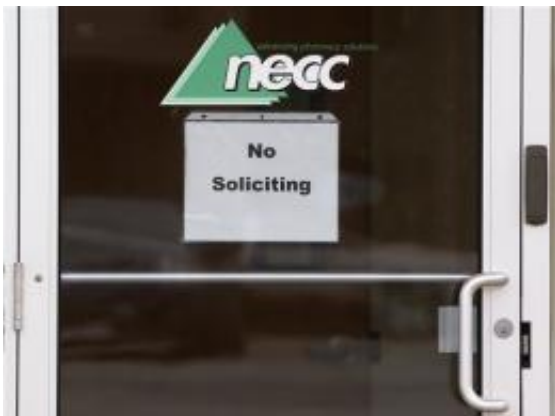


US pharmacy linked to outbreak issues wide recall

October 7 2012



In this Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012, file photo, a sign requesting "No Soliciting" hangs on the door of the New England Compounding Center, the pharmacy that distributed a steroid linked to an outbreak of fungal meningitis, in Framingham, Mass. The New England Compounding Center announced Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012, in a news release a voluntary recall of all of its products. The company said in a news release that the move was taken out of an abundance of caution because of the risk of contamination. It says there is no indication that any other products have been contaminated. (AP Photo/Stephan Savoia, File)

(AP)—The pharmacy that distributed a steroid linked to an outbreak of fungal meningitis has issued a voluntary recall of all of its products, calling the move a precautionary measure.

The New England Compounding Center announced the recall on Saturday. The company said in a news release that the move was taken

out of an abundance of caution because of the risk of contamination. It says there is no indication that any other products have been contaminated.

The [Food and Drug Administration](#) had previously told health professionals not to use any products distributed by the center.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) posted updated figures to its website Sunday showing there are now more than 90 confirmed cases of the rare form of fungal meningitis. The outbreak spans nine states and has killed at least seven people.

The states with reported cases are: Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia.

The steroid linked to the outbreak had already been recalled, and [health officials](#) have been scrambling to notify anyone who may have received an injection of it. The Massachusetts pharmacy that made it has said it is cooperating with investigators.

It is not yet known exactly how many people may have been affected, though it could affect hundreds or even thousands of people who received the [steroid injections](#) for back pain from July to September.

Meningitis is caused by the inflammation of meninges, which are protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. [Fungal meningitis](#) is not contagious like its more common viral and bacterial counterparts.

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