Results Confirm Transmission Occurred at Medical Practice

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department has obtained additional information related to the ongoing investigation of the medical office of Dr. Allen Thomashefsky. The investigation is being conducted to determine if anyone has acquired a communicable disease due to unsafe infection control practices.

As of June 4, the Health Department has received and analyzed information associated with the laboratory test results of 291 patients. To date, 7 patients have been identified as having a new diagnosis of Hepatitis C. Five of the patients all had injection procedures on the same day and were not found to have any other common elements between them other than their treatment at Dr. Thomashefsky’s medical office.

Molecular genetic results from the testing at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were obtained by Public Health on June 4. These results show that the Hepatitis C virus from these five patients had a significant degree of relatedness. This information, combined with the improper infection control practices identified at Dr. Thomashefsky’s clinic, support the conclusion by Public Health that Hepatitis C virus transmission did occur at this medical practice.

Other potential cases are still being investigated and undergoing additional testing by the CDC. The Health Department continues to urge any patient of Dr. Thomashefsky, regardless of when they were seen in his office, to get a blood test for HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. Testing is the only way to know if a person is infected.

Anyone seeking more information can call the Health Department information line at 805-681-4373.

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