



**APRIL 12, 2006**

## **HEALTH ADVISORY**

### **Probable *Fusarium* keratitis case identified in North Dakota**

On April 6, 2006, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) received a report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of a possible case of *Fusarium* keratitis (a form of fungal keratitis) in a North Dakota resident. The case initially contacted the CDC after witnessing a news broadcast about a multi-state outbreak investigation of the disease. The adolescent female first noticed symptoms in January 2006 and sought medical care. The NDDoH is working with the CDC on follow-up investigations of this case and any other cases that may occur in North Dakota.

The CDC recommends that clinicians evaluating contact lens users who have signs or symptoms of keratitis – such as unusual redness, eye pain, tearing, discharge or sensitivity to light – should consider fungal keratitis and refer the patient to an ophthalmologist, if appropriate. Clinicians should consider obtaining clinical specimens (e.g., corneal scrapings) for culture before initiating treatment. Clinicians or microbiology laboratories should report cases of *Fusarium* keratitis to the NDDoH, Division of Disease Control. *Fusarium* isolates should be submitted to Division of Microbiology.

For signs, symptoms and prevention recommendations, please visit the following website:  
[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm55d410a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm55d410a1.htm)

To report possible cases or for more information, contact the NDDoH Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

#### *Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

*This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.*