



## Mycobacterium – Frequently Asked Questions

Updated March 28, 2017

### **Which children are at risk?**

Apparent *Mycobacterium abscessus* (*M. abscessus*) infections have been seen in children who had pulpotomy procedures at the Children’s Dental Group office at 2156 E. Lincoln Avenue in 2016.

### **What is a pulpotomy?**

A pulpotomy is a dental procedure during which the infected pulp tissue of a tooth is treated/removed to prevent the loss of the tooth. It is commonly called a “baby root canal.”

### **Are all children who received a pulpotomy developing illness?**

Less than 10% of children who had a pulpotomy procedure at this clinic have become ill. However, more cases may occur. The Health Care Agency’s Public Health Services team is working with Children’s Dental Group to assure that any new cases are identified and treated quickly.

### **Is there a risk to other children who received dental care other than a pulpotomy at the clinic?**

Infections have only been identified in children who received one or more pulpotomies in 2016.

### **What are the symptoms of *M. abscessus* dental infection?**

Dental infections due to *M. abscessus* can cause symptoms weeks to months after a pulpotomy procedure. Swelling, redness, and pain around the infected tooth occur. These symptoms are similar to those from other types of infections but are significantly harder to treat and therefore more likely to lead to permanent, long-term health consequences.

### **Can *M. abscessus* infections be treated?**

*M. abscessus* infections can be treated, but multiple antibiotics may need to be taken for a prolonged period. Identifying infection quickly is important to make treatment most effective.

### **Who will be contacting me if my child was exposed?**

The Children’s Dental Group has made multiple attempts, by mail and phone to reach families of all children who have had pulpotomies at CDG between January 1<sup>st</sup> and September 6, 2016. In addition, Public Health has also reached out to all families.

### **Who should I contact if I have additional questions or concerns?**

Please contact the OC Health Care Agency at (714)-834-8180, the Children’s Dental Group in Anaheim at (714) 221-1112, or your medical provider if you have questions, concerns or if your child is experiencing symptoms following treatment, particularly a pulpotomy.

**Who should I contact if I have concerns about the treatment/care of my child at the facility?**

The Dental Board of California encourages them to file a written report at

[dbc.ca.gov/consumers/complaint\\_info.shtml](http://dbc.ca.gov/consumers/complaint_info.shtml).