

MARSHA BLACKBURN
7TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE
DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4207

October 12, 2012

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Mr. Barry J. Cadden
Director of Pharmacy and Owner
New England Compounding Center
69 Waverly Street
Framingham, MA 01702

Dear Mr. Cadden:

I am deeply concerned about the contaminated batches of spinal steroid injections which caused a severe outbreak of fungal meningitis across the country. As you know, these contaminated injections have been linked to the New England Compounding Center (NECC).

On October 11, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that 14 people lost their lives due to fungal meningitis which has been linked to contaminated products from NECC. The CDC has also indicated that approximately 169 people have become infected in 11 states and those numbers are expected to rise. In Tennessee alone, there have been 6 deaths and 49 other cases of fungal meningitis reported.

This is a tragedy that demands immediate answers and cooperation so we can find out what exactly went wrong and how we can prevent future outbreaks. Several of my colleagues on the House Energy and Commerce Committee have written to you requesting the preservation of documents related to the contaminated products as well as a briefing to find out more details. I hope you will fully comply with that request in a timely fashion.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Keith Studdard with my office at 202-225-2811.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress