Framingham pharmacy recalls all its products as meningitis cases double to 90 - Metro - The Boston Globe

taken as a precautionary measure."

A preliminary investigation by the <u>Food and Drug</u> <u>Administration</u> has identified a steroid made by New England Compounding as the potential source of the outbreak.

The company has posted a <u>71-page list</u> of the products being recalled, which includes some common drugs and medications, including the pain reliever acetaminophen, blood-pressure medication clonidine, rubbing alcohol, and mouthwash.

Products from the pharmacy can be identified by markings that indicate New England Compounding Center by name, its acronym NECC, or the company's logo.

The company's statement said customers are being notified of the recall by fax.

"Clinics, hospitals and health care providers that have product which is being recalled should stop using the product immediately, retain and secure the product, and follow instructions contained in the fax notice."

A spokesman for the pharmacy declined to comment further. The company has said it is cooperating with the government agencies investigating the cause of the fungal meningitis outbreak.

In a statement Sunday, Dr. Madeleine Biondolillo, director of the Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, said teams from the state and the FDA have been investigating in Framingham for the last five days.

"Federal and state health officials continue to recommend that health care providers and consumers not use any product that was prepared by NECC," Biondolillo said.

The CDC and the FDA said on their respective websites that they are aware of the recall.

The firm voluntarily ceased all operations and surrendered its license to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy on Wednesday, according to the FDA, which had recommended previously that none of the pharmacy's compounded products be used.

Curtis Allen, a spokesman for the CDC, on Sunday called the meningitis outbreak "serious" and "very rare."

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A complaint this year about the potency of eye medications remains under investigation.

During an inspection in fall Of 2004, the FDA found numerous problems at the company, which were detailed in a 2006 warning letter.

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