



## **Health Advisory Possible Meningococcal Disease in a Child August 28, 2017**

On 08/28/17, Humboldt County Public Health was notified of a lab confirmed case of meningococcal disease in a Washington Elementary student. The patient attended school Wednesday (8/23) and Thursday (8/24) while potentially infectious. Petechial and purpuric rash was reported 8/25, and on 8/26 the patient was flown out of County.

### **ACTIONS REQUESTED OF ALL CLINICIANS:**

Humboldt County Public Health is recommending that all individuals who had significant contact with the patient from August 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday, through August 25<sup>th</sup>, Friday receive chemoprophylaxis now.

Significant contact could occur if directly exposed to the patient's respiratory aerosols/oral secretions, and can include:

- Household members
- Childcare contacts
- Persons who shared sleeping spaces with the case (e.g. dormitory)
- Persons with exposure to the index patient's respiratory sections through kissing or other markers of close intimate contact (e.g. sharing toothbrushes, eating utensils, or cigarettes)
- Other persons who may be considered close contacts include people who are likely to have been directly exposed to aerosols or secretions from the case's nose, throat, or mouth.

PLEASE BE AWARE that for the purposes of school exposure, Public Health is recommending that the teacher, aides and all students in the child's classroom receive chemoprophylaxis.

### **Specific reminders regarding meningococcal disease for local health care providers include:**

**1. Maintain a high index of suspicion for meningococcal disease when evaluating patients with fever and petechial or purpuric rash.**

**2. Immediately report suspect meningococcal disease by telephone to the Health Officer.**

- Monday – Friday 8:00-5:00 707-268-2182
- After Hours call the Sheriff, who will page the Health Officer 707-445-7251

Providers should immediately report clinically suspect cases and not wait for culture results. Laboratories should immediately report gram-negative diplococci from any sterile site (e.g., blood, CSF, pericardial fluid, synovial fluid), as well as confirmation of *N. meningitidis* from any culture source.

Additional information: <https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/Meningquicksheet.pdf>

