

Meningococcal Disease Information Sheet for Physicians
Oklahoma State Department of Health
Communicable Diseases Division

Disease Risk for Contacts of Index Case of Invasive Meningococcal Disease *
1997 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases

High Risk: chemoprophylaxis recommended

- Household contacts: especially young children
- Child care or nursery school contact in previous 7 days
- Direct exposure to index patient's secretions through kissing or sharing toothbrushes or eating utensils
- Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, unprotected contact during endotracheal intubation in 7 days before onset of the illness
- Frequently sleeps or eats in same dwelling as index patient

Low Risk: chemoprophylaxis not recommended

- Casual contact: no history of direct exposure to index patient's oral secretions, e.g., school or work mate
- Indirect contact: only contact with a high risk contact, no direct contact with the index patient
- Medical personnel without direct exposure to patient's oral secretions

In outbreak or cluster

- Chemoprophylaxis for persons other than those at high risk should be given only after consultation with the local public health authorities

* Nasopharyngeal aspirate or throat swab cultures are **not** useful in determining risk.