MENINGITIS

FAQs for School Administrators

Who should I call if I have a student or staff rumored to have meningitis?

If you have a student or staff that is rumored to have meningitis, collect as much of the information below, and consult with your local county health department, or call the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Epidemiologist-On-Call at (405) 271-4060, available 24/7/365.

- Name of Student/Staff Member
- Date of Birth or Age
- Name of Hospital, if hospitalized

Does the school need to be cleaned/decontaminated after a case of meningitis?

No. The bacteria, such as *Neisseria meningitidis,* that can cause bacterial meningitis is spread directly from person to person instead of on objects like doorknobs or desks. The bacteria are found in warm, moist environments, such as people's noses and throats.

How can I best address concerned parents?

The Oklahoma State Department of Health has multiple resources including fact sheets and infographics available on our website that can be distributed to parents. These resources will answer frequently asked questions about meningitis. The OSDH Epidemiologist-On-Call, (405) 271-4060, 24/7/365 availability, and your local county health department are also available to answer questions about meningitis.

If it is meningococcal disease, does everyone in the school need medication?

No. Most students and faculty in the school would not be considered exposed and do not need medication. Public health officials will investigate to identify individuals that need medication.

Do I need to notify students and faculty at the school if there is a case of meningitis?

OSDH does NOT recommend mass notification for a suspected case of meningitis. If meningococcal disease is confirmed, close contacts will be notified by the health department.

Are students/faculty who have been recommended antibiotics allowed to attend school?

Yes. Students and faculty who may have been recommended to receive antibiotics are not ill, and so should not be excluded from school.

Acute Disease Service
Oklahoma State Department of Health
Creating a State of Health

For more information, call or visit us on the web:
(405) 271-4060 http://ads.health.ok.gov