

DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



## Public Health Alert

April 1, 2015

Larry Meredith, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, M.D., MPH  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

899 Northgate Drive  
Suite 104  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415 473 4163 T  
415 473 2326 F  
415 473 3232 TTY  
[www.marincounty.org/hhs](http://www.marincounty.org/hhs)

Dear Providers,

This is to alert you that there has been a case of culture-confirmed *N. meningitidis* conjunctivitis at St. Anselm School in Marin County.

While this child did not have meningitis, California Department of Public Health recommends that close contacts of *N. meningitidis* conjunctivitis be managed in the same manner as those exposed to invasive meningococcal disease.

The risk of meningitis remains low among contacts and these steps are being taken out of an abundance of caution. Asymptomatic nasopharyngeal colonization with *N. meningitidis* can occur in as much as 5-10% of the population with less than 1% of those colonized progressing on to invasive disease.

Today, two letters were sent to the community: one to all in the St Anselm School as a situational update, and a separate letter to those children who were identified as close contacts. This second letter asks parents to contact their medical provider for antibiotic prophylaxis. These letters are below.

For more information and treatment recommendations, see CDPH "Meningococcal Disease Quicksheet" at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/Meningquicksheet.pdf>

Please call Marin County Communicable Disease Prevention and Control program for questions concerning chemoprophylaxis, treatment, and to report meningococcal disease at (415) 473-4163 during business hours. After business hours, on the weekends and holidays, call (415) 499-7238 and ask to speak with the Public Health Officer.

Sincerely,

Matt Willis, MD, MPH

Marin County Public Health Officer



April 1, 2015

Dear Parents,

This letter is to alert you that there has been a possible exposure in our school, St. Anselm School, to a bacterial infection caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* (*N. meningitidis*). Rarely, *N. Meningitidis* can cause meningitis. The person in our school does not have meningitis.

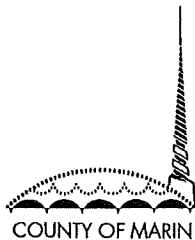
A separate letter has been sent to the parents of those children who may have been more directly exposed to the infected person.

This letter is being sent to the entire school community. If you haven't received a separate letter indicating possible exposure, no action is needed on your part, aside from monitoring for the possible development of any symptoms of meningitis through April 13, 2015.

The symptoms of meningitis include sudden onset of fever, intense headache, nausea and vomiting, stiff neck, sensitivity to light, rash, altered level of consciousness.

If your child does develop any of these symptoms, seek medical care immediately and present this notice to the provider.

If you have questions or concerns, please call Marin County Public Health Department Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (415) 473-4163.



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Dear Parents or Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that your child may have had contact with a person with a bacterial conjunctivitis caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* (*N. meningitidis*) on March 30, 2015. Rarely *N. meningitidis* can cause meningitis.

While the risk of transmission is low, **it is important for you to contact your child's medical provider as soon as possible to obtain preventive antibiotic treatment.** Healthy people who were in direct contact are recommended to receive preventive antibiotics to protect against *N. meningitidis* infection.

We would also like you to **observe your child for symptoms of meningitis** through April 13, 2015.

Symptoms of meningitis include sudden onset of fever, intense headache, nausea and vomiting, stiff neck, sensitivity to light, rash, or altered level of consciousness. If your child develops any of these symptoms, seek medical care immediately and present this notice to the provider.

*N. meningitidis* can be spread from the nose, throat, mouth, or eyes of an infected person.

The interval between infection and the potential onset of symptoms (incubation period) is 1-14 days, usually less than 4 days.

Medical providers may contact Marin County Public Health Department Communicable Disease Prevention program at (415) 499-7238 and ask to speak with the Public Health Officer.

Kind regards,

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH, Marin County Public Health Officer