Your child may have been exposed to:

Meningitis

Quick Help

If you think your child has Meningitis

Tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Need to stay home?

Yes, until the child has been on antibiotics at least 24 hours. The child should also be healthy enough for routine activities.

Prevention

- The local or state health department will help determine who has been exposed and will need to take preventive antibiotics.
- DO NOT share drink containers, water bottles, straws, silverware, cigarettes, lip balm, toothbrushes or other things that come In contact with the mouth. Wash all dishes with hot soapy water between uses.
- Clean and disinfect objects that come in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth. Use a product that kills germs.
- Check with your healthcare provider about vaccinations that can protect against some strains of meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal disease is a bacterial infection of the covering of the brain or spinal cord (meningitis) or of the blood (bacteremia) that requires prompt treatment.

Symptoms:

Your child may have chills, a headache, fever and stiff neck. The child may vomit, be extremely sleepy and be confused or fussy. The child may not be hungry. Sometimes symptoms include a rash or seizures. If your child is infected, it may take 1 to 10 days for symptoms to start. It usually takes 3 to 4 days.

Spread

By direct contact with secretions of the nose and throat. This may happen by kissing, sharing food, beverages toothbrushes or silverware.

Contagious Period

Until 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.

Call your Healthcare Provider

If anyone in your home:

- Has symptoms of the illness. Your doctor will decide if a test or treatment is needed.
- Has been exposed (by direct contact with saliva or is a household contact) to someone with meningococcal disease.

For more information, please visit or call:
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www.oldhamcountyhealthdepartment.org

OCHD
Oldham County Health Department