



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SCOTT HARRIS, M.D. ♦ ACTING STATE HEALTH OFFICER

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Date: 11/17/17

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, has received a report of a case of *Neisseria meningitidis* in your child's school. Your child may have been exposed to this reported case. If your child is not up-to-date for all school vaccines, as well as their meningococcal vaccine, please take them immediately to your healthcare provider or county health department to ensure your child is protected from all vaccine-preventable diseases for required school attendance.

Neisseria meningitidis is a highly contagious disease that is spread to others by contact with respiratory and throat secretions, such as saliva or spit.

Parents are advised to be alert for signs of meningococcal disease. These include, but are not limited to, a sudden onset of fever, headache, stiff neck, confusion and sometimes a rash. If any of these signs or symptoms should develop, the student should be taken immediately to a physician or emergency room to be evaluated for possible meningococcal disease.

A close contact is defined as anyone living in the same household as the infected person, who have kissed the infected person on the mouth, who have items that come in contact with an infected person's saliva, such as drinks from the same container (i.e. water bottles, cups, glasses), eating utensils, cigarettes, or lipstick.

Please consider the following additional recommendations from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH):

1. If your child or family members have any of the above symptoms, please have them evaluated by their health care provider and request a Culture from a normally sterile body site be collected and tested at the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories.
2. To reduce the spread, it is recommended that students and staff not share items that come in contact with another person's saliva such as food, drinks, lipstick/balm, or cigarettes.
3. Ensure all household members are up-to-date for all age-appropriate vaccines.

If you have any questions, please contact your Immunization Compliance Manager or Team Member.

Sincerely,
Ronnie Darrington – 256-533-8766
Disease Intervention Specialist/Team Member