

February 22, 2024  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Butler County General Health District, 513-863-1770

## **Suspected Meningococcal Disease in Butler County**

**BUTLER COUNTY** – Butler County General Health District is currently investigating a suspected case of meningococcal disease in a student attending Miami University in Oxford. Butler County General Health District is in the process of identifying high-risk close contacts and providing them with a prescription for antibiotics.

Butler County General Health District is working with Miami University, the Ohio Department of Health and other partners to protect health by conducting contact tracing, providing education and information about the disease.

### **About Meningococcal Disease:**

Meningococcal disease is rare, but potentially life threatening and debilitating.

Meningococcal bacteria spreads person-to-person through respiratory droplets and throat secretions (saliva or spit). In general, close contact such as kissing, sharing food, or living together is how meningococcal disease spreads. People do not catch meningococcal disease through casual contact or by breathing air where someone with meningococcal disease has been.

There are two common types of meningococcal disease—meningitis (where the lining of the brain/spinal cord becomes infected and swells) and septicemia (where bacteria enters the bloodstream, damages blood vessels and causes bleeding).

Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis include: fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light and confusion.

Symptoms of meningococcal septicemia include: fever, chills, feeling tired, vomiting, diarrhea, cold hands/feet, severe body aches, rapid breathing and/or a dark purple rash.

Meningococcal disease is treatable with antibiotics. It is important to start treatment as soon as possible because the disease can be deadly. People with the symptoms described above should seek immediate medical attention.

### **Who is at Risk?**

Anyone can get meningococcal disease no matter their gender, race, age, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Those at highest risk of becoming infected with meningococcal disease include: babies, teens/young adults (16-23 years old) and adults 65+ years of age. Having certain medical conditions, traveling to certain countries and attending college can increase someone's risk for getting this disease.

### **Prevention:**

The most effective means of preventing meningococcal disease is vaccination. There are two types of vaccines that help protect against meningococcal disease: MenACWY and MenB. Preteens should get one dose of the MenACWY vaccine at 11 or 12 years old. Teens should get a MenACWY booster vaccine at age 16 years old. Teens and young adults (ages 16-23) may also be vaccinated with a MenB vaccine.

For more information on meningococcal disease, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/>

# #