

# TEHAMA COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Date: January 9, 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

This letter is to provide you with information on a case of suspected meningococcal disease that occurred in a child that attends Bidwell Elementary School. The 10-year-old student became ill on January 8th with suspected meningococcal infection. This disease, caused by bacteria known as *Neisseria meningitidis*, generally occurs in 2 forms: (1) meningitis (which is an inflammation of the tissues covering the brain) and/or (2) bloodstream infection that leads to bleeding under the skin.

Tehama County Health Officer Dr. Richard Wickenheiser has recommended preventative treatment for those identified persons who had close contact with this student and those persons are receiving antibiotic treatment. Close contacts are those living in the same household or those who had shared oral secretions, as by kissing or sharing foods, drinks, water bottles, cigarettes, lipstick, etc. For all other persons, including those who had casual contact as would occur in most school-related activities, the risk of infection is extraordinarily low and approaches that in the population at large (one case 100,000 population/year). For them, antibiotic prophylaxis is NOT indicated and is not advised.

Although the risk of disease to other students is quite low, parents are advised to be alert for signs of meningococcal disease. These include, but are not limited to: fever headache, stiff neck, and/or rash that does not blanch on pressure (suggesting bleeding under the skin). 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. Antibiotic treatment of the disease is usually successful, especially if it is started early.

To reduce the spread and the risk of this communicable disease, we recommend that adults and students avoid intimate contact and NOT share foods, drinks, lipstick/balm, etc. If you have any questions, an informational sheet is attached or please telephone Tehama County Health Services Agency-Public Health Division Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm at 527-6824 or 1 800-655-6854.

Sincerely,

Sydnei Wilby  
Public Health Director

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**Estimados Padres y Estudiantes**

**Fecha: 9 de enero de 2010**

Esta carta es para proporcionar información tocante a un caso de una sospechosa enfermedad de meningococcal que ocurrió en un niño que asistió a la escuela primaria de Bidwell. El estudiante de 10 años de edad se enfermó el 8 de enero con infección sospechosa de meningococcal. Esta enfermedad causada, por bacterias conocidas como meningitis de Neisseria, ocurre generalmente en dos formas (1) meningitis, (que es inflamación de los tejidos que cubren el cerebro) y/o infecciones de corriente de sangre que causa sangrado bajo la piel..

El Oficial de Salud del Condado de Tehama Dr. Richard Wickenheiser ha recomendado medidas preventivas para esas personas identificadas que tuvieron contacto cerca con este estudiante y esas personas están recibiendo tratamientos de antibióticos. Contactos cercanos son esos que viven en la misma casa o los que compartieron secreciones orales, como besar o compartir alimento, bebidas, botellas de agua, cigarros, lápiz labial etc. Para todas las otras personas incluyendo los que tuvieron contacto casual como ocurre en las actividades relacionadas en la mayoría de las escuelas, el riesgo de contagio es extraordinariamente bajo y/o venir cerca de una población en grande (un caso 100.000 población/año). Para ellos antibióticos profilaxis, NO se indican y no se aconsejan.

Aunque el riesgo a otros estudiantes sea bastante bajo, aconsejamos que los padres serán alertados de los signos de la enfermedad de meningococcal. Estos incluyen pero no se limitan a: dolor de cabeza con fiebre, cuello tieso, y/o ronchas que no blanquean con presión (sugiriendo sangrar bajo la piel). Si cualquiera de estos signos o síntomas se están desarrollando, el estudiante debe llevarse inmediatamente a un sala médica o la emergencia para ser evaluado para la enfermedad de meningococcal. El tratamiento antibiótico de la enfermedad es generalmente exitoso, especialmente si es tratado a tiempo.

Para reducir la extensión y el riesgo de esta enfermedad transmisible, nosotros recomendamos que los adultos y estudiantes eviten contacto íntimo y no compartan alimentos, bebidas, lápiz labial/bálsamo, etc. Si usted tiene cualquier pregunta, una hoja de información esta conecta o llamen a la Agencia de Servicio de Salud del Condado de Tehama - División de Salud Pública de lunes - viernes 8am - 5 p.m. en (530) 527-6824 o 1-800-655-6854

Sinceramente,

Sydnei Wilby  
Directora del Salud Pública