

Pike County Health Department

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HomeCare



Across Illinois

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release: 5-17-10

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TITLE: Suspected Bacterial Meningitis Case

CONTENT:

The Pike County Health Department is working with Dr. Ronald Johnson, Medical Director, the Illinois Department of Public Health and local health care providers regarding a suspected case of bacterial meningitis due to a bacteria called *N. meningitidis*. Further testing is pending to confirm this diagnosis.

Bacterial meningitis due to *N. meningitidis* is not highly contagious. These bacteria are spread by direct contact with saliva or less commonly when an infected person coughs or sneezes directly into the face of others. These bacteria are not transmitted by routine classroom contact. *N. meningitidis* is not transmitted by casual contact, such as sitting in the same room as an infected person or passing an infected person in a hallway or sidewalk.

Very close contacts including persons living in the same household or others who have had direct exposure to the ill person's secretions through kissing the mouth or lips or sharing eating utensils, sports bottles, beverage containers or cigarettes are recommended for preventive antibiotics. Persons who have had close contact should contact their health care provider for guidance.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call the Pike County Health Department at 217-285-4407.