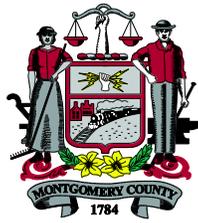


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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**Montgomery County Health Department  
Public Health Advisory**

**Investigation of Meningococcal Invasive Disease due to *Neisseria Meningitidis*  
March 8, 2018**

On March 8, 2018, Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD) was notified of an 59-year-old male with a diagnosis of meningococcal invasive infection. Patient became ill with fever, lethargy and rash. On March 5, the patient was transported to Abington Hospital-Jefferson Health and is currently diagnosed with Meningococemia.

The bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis* causes meningococcal disease. About 1 in 10 people have this bacteria in the back of their nose and throat with no signs or symptoms of disease; this is called being 'a carrier'. But sometimes the bacteria invades the body and cause certain illnesses, which are known as meningococcal disease.

*Neisseria Meningitidis* is spread through direct contact with nose and throat secretions (saliva or spit) from an infected individual. Meningitis is the most common presentation of invasive disease, which includes fever, intense headache, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck and photophobia.

MCHD is recommending chemoprophylaxis for all close social contacts as follows:

Rifampin – for adults or children, dosage to be determine by physician according to age and weight. General guidelines are to administer twice daily for 2 days; 600 mg per dose for adults; children over 1 month old should receive 10mg/kg; under 1 month old should receive 5mg/kg.

***Not to be used by pregnant women.***

**or**

Ceftriaxone – 250mg IM for adults, 125mg IM for children under 15 years of age.

**or**

Ciprofloxacin – 500mg one time for adults only. Ciprofloxacin 500 mg in a single dose is probably the easiest option in adults.

**Close social contacts are defined as direct exposure to the infected individual's nose and throat secretions through kissing, sharing of toothbrushes, eating utensils and cigarettes, etc.** The incubation period is 2-10 days, commonly 4 days.

MCHD is working with Abington Hospital- Jefferson Health and the resident's emergency contacts to identify close contacts. MCHD has enhanced surveillance but as of today, no new cases have been identified.

For further information please contact MCHD's Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at 610-278-5117.

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