

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS **ALERT** FOR PHYSICIANS

November 9, 2017

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Medical Health Officers:

Dr. Trevor Corneil

Dr. Kamran Golmohammadi

Dr. Silvina Mema

Dr. Sue Pollock

Dr. Karin Goodison

CONTACT INFO:

Duty MHO line (24/7)

1-866-457-5648

Two cases of Meningococcal Disease in students attending South Okanagan Secondary School in Oliver. The first case presented to hospital on September 29th and the second case presented to hospital on November 8th. One potential third case is currently being investigated.

Consider as a possible case anyone who presents with a fever and either:

- Goes to the same school as the cases
- Reports having close contact with the most recent case between October 31 to November 8

Consider close contacts as anyone who meets one of the following criteria:

- household contacts of the case
- persons who share sleeping arrangements with the case
- persons who have had direct contamination of their nose or mouth with oral/nasal secretions of a case (i.e., kissing on the mouth; sharing toothbrushes, joints, cigarettes, eating utensils, mouth-guards, water bottles, or musical instrument mouthpieces)
- health care workers who have had intensive unprotected contact (without wearing a mask) with infected patients (e.g., intubating, resuscitating, or closely examining the oropharynx of patients)

If anyone meets this definition, please:

- put the patient on droplet and contact precautions
- consider doing a full meningitis workup on the patient
- consider starting the patient on treatment for meningitis
- alert the on call Medical Health Officer

Individuals from the school or community may present to you if they are concerned about being a contact to one of these cases. If they meet the definition of a close contact noted above, and have been exposed to the most recent case between October 31 to November 8, please call the MHO on call to authorize chemoprophylaxis. For further information, please consult the [BCCDC guidelines for Meningococcal Disease](#).

Interior Health will be providing vaccination clinics in Oliver for all students and staff who attend or work at South Okanagan Secondary School. As the first case was N. meningitidis type W, the meningitis quadrivalent vaccine Meningococcal Quadrivalent vaccine (Men-C-ACYW-135) will be offered. These clinics will be held Friday, November 10, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at South Okanagan Secondary School (SOSS) and Saturday November 11, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Oliver Health Centre.