

For Immediate Release | Sept. 21, 2018

Low risk associated with case of pneumococcal disease in Oliver

Interior Health is aware of a recent case of pneumococcal disease with associated meningitis in Oliver and would like to reassure residents that there is no identified risk to the public or health care workers at this time.

Interior Health has worked closely with the BC Centre for Disease Control and through testing has determined that this is an isolated case that is **not connected** to the Okanagan meningococcal outbreak last year.

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by bacteria and can result in many types of illnesses, including: ear infections, sinus infections, pneumonia and meningitis in severe cases. Pneumococcal disease is generally not severe, and is most common in children under 5, individuals who are immunocompromised or individuals over 65.

At this time, vaccines and antibiotics are **not required** for those who may have been in contact with this case. The best way to prevent the spread of bacteria is to wash your hands frequently throughout the day, especially after coughing or sneezing, cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, and to seek medical attention if you are feeling unwell.

If you experience symptoms that you are concerned about – including fever, headache, stiff neck, or vomiting – call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 to speak with a registered nurse, visit your doctor or nurse practitioner or visit a walk-in clinic. If symptoms are severe, visit your local emergency department.

Interior Health is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and providing a wide range of quality health-care services to more than 740,000 people living across B.C.'s vast interior. For more information, visit www.interiorhealth.ca, follow us on Twitter [@Interior_Health](https://twitter.com/Interior_Health), or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/InteriorHealth.

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