

Winchcombe School

NH/ES
7th December 2016

Greet Road, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 5LB
Tel: (01242) 602233
email: admin@winchcombeschool.co.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to inform you that a student who attends the school has been admitted to hospital with suspected meningococcal disease, caused by the meningococcus bacteria. The child is currently being treated.

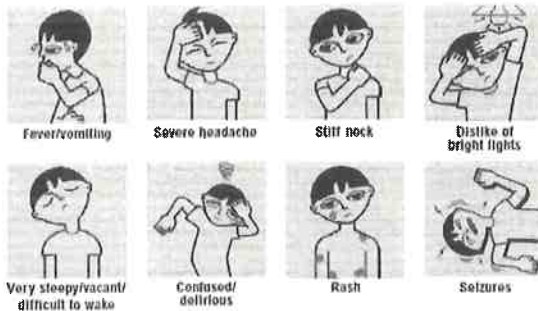
There is no reason to make any change in the schools daily routine and no reason for you to stay at home.

The students and staff who attend the school are not at increased risk of developing meningococcal disease and no further wider action is necessary at the present time.

Meningococcal bacteria are carried in the back of the throat of about one in ten people at any one time, but only very rarely cause illness. Most people who carry the bacteria become immune to them. The bacteria do not spread easily and only those who have had prolonged, close contact with the person are at a slightly greater risk of getting ill. These people have been identified by the Public Health England South West Health Protection Team and offered antibiotics to reduce the chances of the bacteria spreading.

Although the risk of another case in the school is very small, it is sensible to be aware of the signs and symptoms which are detailed below.

Meningitis



Septicaemia



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NOT ALL OF THESE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS MAY SHOW AT ONCE, but someone with this illness will become very ill. The illness may progress over one or two days, but it can develop very rapidly, sometimes in a matter of hours. Very young infants may also refuse feeds and have a high pitched cry. They may also appear floppy and have a tense and bulging spot on the head.

Diagnosis in the early stages can be difficult. The early signs can be like bad 'flu' symptoms but be WATCHFUL and use your instincts. If you or someone you know becomes ill with some of these signs or symptoms, contact the doctor urgently and ask for advice. Out of hours call NHS 111.

Further information is available from:

The Meningitis Research Foundation: www.meningitis.org, 0808 800 3344 (24hr)

Meningitis Now: <https://www.meningitisnow.org>, 0808 80 10 388 (9am-10pm)

If you have any questions please call the Health Protection Team on 0300 303 8162

Yours sincerely



Mr Hall
Headteacher