



JAN. 18, 2007

HEALTH UPDATE

Meningococcal Disease, Cass County

On January 10, 2007, a presumptive case of meningococcal disease was reported in a Cass County resident. Serotyping of the organism at the North Dakota Department of Health's Division of Laboratory Services indicates this was a group B organism. This is the same serotype that was detected by PCR assay in the fatal case reported in August 2006. Because we do not have the organism from the initial case we will be unable to do further testing that would tell us definitively if the same organism caused both cases.

The North Dakota Department of Health notified all the day-care contacts including staff members last week and all were recommended to receive chemoprophylaxis from their health-care provider.

This week the North Dakota Department of Health will survey the day-care parents and staff to determine how many exposed individuals received appropriate prophylaxis. For those children or staff who may not have received prophylaxis, we will recommend they contact their health-care provider to be treated.

More information regarding meningococcal infection can be found at www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Disease/Meningococcal.htm.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.