



To: Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN) Participants
Date: March 26, 2007

Death of a 15-Year-Old Canyon Crest Academy Student Due to Meningococcal Disease

Community Epidemiology (CEB) received information from Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla regarding the death of a 15-year-old high school student from meningococcal disease on Sunday, March 25, 2007. Onset of symptoms began early Wednesday morning, March 21. The student's last day of school was Tuesday, March 20. Since individuals may be infectious up to 7 days before onset of symptoms, chemoprophylaxis is recommended for those with close contact with the student since March 14.

CEB is conducting an ongoing investigation of the case. Close contacts to the case during the infectious period have been identified, and advised to seek antibiotic prophylaxis. Close contacts are defined as:

- Household contacts
- Contacts sharing or having contact with oral secretions (spitting, kissing, sharing food or beverages, eating utensils, toothbrushes, cigarettes, lipstick, lip balm, etc.)

Students who had casual contact with the case at school (contact that would be expected in everyday school activities) are not considered to be at risk, and prophylaxis is not indicated. The letter sent to parents of students attending Canyon Crest Academy can be found at <http://www.sduhsd.net/cc/>.

For additional information on meningococcal disease chemoprophylaxis, including chemoprophylaxis regimens, go to the following CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5407a1.htm>

On March 26, San Diego County responded to questions from the media by describing close contact and prophylaxis. Parents were urged to be alert to symptoms including fever, headache, stiff neck and/or rash that does not blanch on pressure. It was recommended that parents seek meningococcal vaccine for their children, referring them to the following CDC website for more information on the disease and vaccine: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_meningitis.htm. Meningococcal vaccine received during the efficacious chemoprophylaxis period does not replace chemoprophylaxis for established close contacts.

Between 2002 and 2006, 85 cases of meningococcal disease were reported in San Diego County. There were 10 deaths. If you suspect meningococcal disease, please immediately report to CEB at 619-515-6620 so that appropriate investigation and contact follow-up can be initiated.

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)
County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch