

MENINGITIS

June 2007

Columbus Public Health

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Meningitis, an infection of the fluid of a person's spinal cord and brain, can be caused by a virus or bacteria. While symptoms may be similar, knowing the cause is important because the severity and treatment of the illness differ.

Aseptic (Viral) vs Bacterial

SYMPTOMS:

Fever
Severe Headache
Stiff Neck
Nausea and vomiting

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Severe Headache
Stiff neck
Nausea and Vomiting
Sensitivity to light

TRANSMISSION:

Caused by Enteroviruses
Spread through respiratory secretions
Common in summer and fall

Due to bacteria (N.meningitidis, S. pneumoniae)
Spread through respiratory secretions

TREATMENT:

Supportive care: bed rest , fluids,
Pain relief

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Antibiotics need to be given and Should be started as soon as possible

PREVENTION:

Good hand washing

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Vaccine: Menactra

Disease Incidence

Cases reported in Columbus & Franklin County
May 2007

PERTUSSIS: 16

MUMPS: 0

SALMONELLA: 8

HEPATITIS A: 1

RUBELLA: 0

MEASLES: 0

SHIGELLA: 0

WEST NILE VIRUS: 0

Numbers may change slightly after case investigation or due to late reporting

- o Menactra: conjugate vaccine
- o Protects against 4 strains of meningitis common in the USA
- o Recommended by CDC for 11-12 years old and students entering high school and college
- o Menactra may provide life long immunity.

Public Health Responsibilities

- o PH needs to receive reports of suspected, probable, or confirmed Neisseria meningitidis **immediately and we are available** 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.
- o PH will work with physician to identify household contacts, intimate contacts, and individuals who have had prolonged contact with patient, to provide prophylactic antibiotics.

Report Disease with Ease – 24 hours a day

719-8888 (phone) 719-8890 (fax) cdrs@co.franklin.oh.us (email)

Brought to you by the Communicable Disease Reporting System (CDRS)

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Website: <http://www.cdrsinfo.com>

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