



Ref 165134

Dear colleague,

I am writing to inform you that two pupils attending the St. Brendan's Sixth Form College, Bristol have been admitted to hospital over the past four and a half weeks with confirmed group B meningococcal infection. One of the pupils has recovered however sadly, the other pupil has died.

Public Health England has been working closely with St Brendan's college, Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and the clinicians following the death of the student from meningococcal sepsis to investigate any potential links between the two cases.

In line with national expert guidance available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322008/Guidance_for_management_of_meningococcal_disease_pdf.pdf, preventative antibiotics have been offered to close household contacts of the cases to prevent further spread of the infection.

Public Health England has arranged antibiotics for very close household contacts of the cases and has also provided information to remind all students and staff of the signs and symptoms of meningococcal infection, which can cause meningitis, as well as septicaemia. Those who have had prolonged close contact with the cases such as in a household type setting during the seven days before the onset of symptoms have been offered chemoprophylaxis. Students who have not had that level of contact do not need chemoprophylaxis.

It is unusual to have two confirmed cases in the same educational setting and we could not find any firm links between the cases. We also could not identify any group that would benefit from further public health action such as antibiotic chemoprophylaxis or vaccination at the moment, but we continue to review and monitor this situation carefully. This advice may change if more information becomes available.

Although the risk of a third case is very low, please be aware that some cases of meningococcal disease may have an unusual presentation such as vomiting and diarrhoea and keep us informed if you find any case as this may alter our public health strategy for managing this incident.

It is important to note that the new MenACWY vaccination programme introduced in April 2016 does not protect against the Group B Meningococcal infection.

We would like you to bear this information in mind if you have patients presenting with symptoms suggestive of meningococcal disease so that appropriate steps can be taken to assess them and take samples to rule out the diagnosis. We are sending this letter to all GPs and Accident and Emergency departments in the catchment area for the college in case you have enquiries from your patients.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me on 0300 303 8162 selecting option 1, then option 2 quoting HPZone 165134.

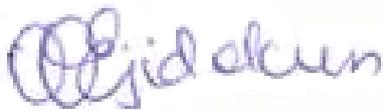
You may wish to advise your patients to contact the Meningitis charities available at:

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

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

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Toyin Ejidokun
Consultant in Communicable Disease Control