

Exposure Notice to Families - Bacterial Meningitis

Dear Family:

Your child may have been exposed to **bacterial meningitis**. An infection of the spinal chord and the fluid surrounding the brain. It is recommended that you contact your child's doctor or clinic and inform them as soon as possible, especially if your child has a runny nose or a cold.

What are the symptoms? High fever, chills, stiff neck, headache, light sensitivity, and vomiting.

How is it spread? Person to person through respiratory and throat secretions (kissing or coughing). It may also be spread by sharing beverage containers. It is not transmitted through the air and is less contagious than a cold.

When do symptoms start? Hours to 7 days

Need to keep child home? Yes. Child must have clearance from your medical provider to return to school.

Bacterial meningitis can be very severe and can lead to complications resulting in brain damage or disability. If your child shows any of these symptoms seek medical care immediately. If your child is diagnosed with meningitis please notify your Head start/ECEAP center.

Staff _____ Phone _____

Center _____