



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1060 EMELINE AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962  
(831) 454-4114 FAX: (831) 454-5049 TDD: (831) 454-4123

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UNIT

To: All Health Care Providers in Santa Cruz County  
From: Dr. Lisa B. Hernandez, Health Officer  
Subject: University of Oregon Meningococcal Disease Outbreak

We are asking all providers to be alert for University of Oregon students who present for acute medical care.

Six cases of serogroup B meningococcal disease have been reported among University of Oregon students with onsets during January 13<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>. The outbreak is considered ongoing. Most of the cases involved meningococemia rather than meningitis, and many presented initially with nonspecific symptoms. Because many students will be home or traveling during Spring Break, March 20<sup>th</sup> to March 29<sup>th</sup>, it is essential that providers in California be aware of the situation.

Persons with meningococcal disease may present with a nonspecific prodrome of cough, headache and sore throat. After a few days of upper respiratory symptoms, the temperature rises abruptly. Malaise, weakness, myalgias, headache, nausea, vomiting and arthralgias are common presenting symptoms. A skin rash, which is essential for recognizing meningococemia, is the characteristic manifestation. **Meningococemia's potential rapidity of progression cannot be stressed enough.** Fulminant meningococemia may be apparent within hours of the initial presentation.

Please report any suspect cases of meningococcal disease immediately to the Communicable Disease Unit at 831-454-4114 during business hours and after hours, please call 831-471-1170 and ask for the Health Officer.

Please post and distribute this message as appropriate.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.