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| FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 07/30/2018 TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers | FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Jill McCullough, RN, Community Public Health Nurse 509-766-7960 ext. 25 Kari Hitzroth, RN, Community Public Health Nurse 509-766-7960 ext. 13 After Hours: 509-398-2083 |
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GCHD is Investigating a Suspected Case of Invasive Meningococcal Infection

GRANT COUNTY, WA – *Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, issues the following alert to the healthcare provider community: Grant County Health District is investigating an individual suspected for invasive Meningococcal infection.* Confirmatory laboratory studies are still pending. Until that time, GCHD is making steps to notify close contacts and offer Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to those at increased risk.

Those in close contact with the investigated individual are being advised to monitor for signs and symptoms of Meningococcal infection including sudden onset of fever, chills, headache, neck stiffness, mental status change, typical rash.

Generally, PEP is only recommended for close contacts: those with a direct face-to-face contact, those with an obvious exposure to respiratory, oral or nasal secretions, or those who spent a prolonged period of time in a close proximity to the infectious individual, regardless of meningococcal vaccination status. PEP is **not recommended in cases of casual contact**, such as walking by a person, briefly sitting across a person in a waiting room or office.

Period of contagiousness is generally defined as **7-10 days prior to symptom onset, in this case from approximately 07/18/2018 -- 07/28/2018**. The probability of illness decreases with the amount of time that has passed since exposure.

- The preferred agent for PEP in case of meningitis exposure is Rifampin twice a day, Ceftriaxone x 1 dose (preferred in pregnancy). Ciprofloxacin once dose is an option for those allergic to Rifampin or Ceftriaxone, but Fluoroquinolone resistant N. meningitidis have been reported.

Actions requested

- Report suspected cases of *Nisseria Meningococcal Meningitis (NM)* ([case definition](#)) to Grant County Health District immediately.
- **Collect specimens** from patients suspected of having NM **as early as possible in the course of illness.**
- Contact your GCHD for guidance.

Contact GCHD for questions, sampling and shipping details.

Clinical Consultation

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