



Public Health
England

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Dronfield Junior School,
School Lane,
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13/10/16

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am writing to inform you that a child from Dronfield Junior School is in hospital with probable meningococcal septicaemia caused by the meningococcal bacteria. We have considered the circumstances of the case and no further action is necessary at the present time. There is no reason to make any change in the school routine and no reason for children to be kept at home.

Meningococcal bacteria are carried in the back of the throat of about one in ten people at any one time but only very rarely cause illness. Most people who carry the bacteria become immune to them. The bacteria do not spread easily and those who have had prolonged, close contact with the person are at a slightly greater risk of getting ill. These people have been identified and given antibiotics to stop the bacteria spreading.

Although the risk of another case in the school is very small, it is sensible to be aware of the signs and symptoms which are detailed below:

Meningitis



Severe headache



Stiff neck



Dislike of
bright lights



Fever/vomiting



Drowsy and less
responsive/
vacant



Rash (develops
anywhere on
body)



Rash (develops
anywhere on
body)



Fever/vomiting



Cold hands and
feet/shivering



Rapid breathing
(or unusual
breathing)



Stomach/joint/
muscle pain



Drowsy and less
responsive/
vacant

Septicaemia

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NOT ALL OF THESE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS MAY SHOW AT ONCE, but someone with this illness will become very ill. The illness may progress over one or two days. **BUT IT CAN DEVELOP VERY RAPIDLY**, sometimes in a matter of hours.

Diagnosis in the early stages can be difficult. The early signs can be like bad 'flu' symptoms but be **WATCHFUL** and use your instincts. **IF SOMEONE BECOMES ILL WITH SOME OF THESE SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS, CONTACT THE DOCTOR URGENTLY** and ask for advice.

If you have individual worries about this case, you can speak to a member of the **Health Protection team 03442 254 524** option 1 during normal working hours.

Further information is available from:

The Meningitis Research Foundation, www.meningitis.org, 0808 800 3344 (24hr Helpline)
Meningitis Now www.meningitisnow.org 0808 801 0388 (24hr Support Line)
NHS 111

Yours sincerely



Kate Wedgwood
Senior Health Protection Specialist