



COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

December 8, 2017

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

College Students Potentially Exposed to *Neisseria Meningitidis*

Five laboratory-confirmed cases of invasive *Neisseria meningitidis* infection have been reported among students at Oregon State University. The Imperial County Public Health Department is urging health-care providers to be vigilant for suspect cases in students returning home for winter break or others who have recently visited the campus.

Five Oregon State University (OSU) students have developed invasive meningococcal disease since November 2016, including two in the past six weeks. Four have confirmed serogroup B infection; serogroup is pending on the final case. Isolates were obtained on culture in three cases and these match by molecular sub-typing. Contacts have received antimicrobial prophylaxis.

Many students will travel to California and other states for winter break, December 9, 2017 – January 7, 2018. More than 3,000 students from throughout California attend OSU.

Please ask any patient with suspected or confirmed meningococcal infection about connections to OSU. Report suspected cases immediately to the Imperial County Public Health Department for follow up.

Vaccination against serogroup B meningococcus is recommended for all incoming and current OSU undergraduate students aged 25 and under. Bexsero® is the vaccine administered in the mass vaccination efforts at the university.

For more information or to report a suspected case of invasive meningococcal infection, contact the Imperial County Public Health Department Epidemiology section by calling (442) 265-1464.

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