

This message is a follow-up to the last communication regarding the medical alert concerning the two confirmed linked cases of meningococcal disease at Ramapo High School. At this time the Wyckoff Board of Health and the State Health Department in conjunction with the centers for disease control and prevention have concluded that the 2 cases are linked and that it is not appropriate to dispense medication on a mass level to all students and staff. The board of health has and continues to identify those people in need of medication based on research on the two cases. However, taking antibiotics can prevent meningococcal disease from developing in persons who are identified as close contacts. All of the aforementioned agencies indicate that if indeed you have concerns to please contact your primary care provider

As a recap of the information provided

Meningococcal disease is an infection caused by bacteria. The disease is spread by prolonged close contact with someone who has the illness. Examples of close contact would be kissing, sharing of cigarettes, sharing of lip balms or sharing cups, bottles, or eating utensils with the ill person, or coming in contact with coughs or sneezes of the ill person. Being in the room with the ill person is not considered close contact.

When a person becomes ill with meningococcal disease, the symptoms may include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, neck stiffness, and a rash. These symptoms need immediate medical attention because the disease can progress rapidly. Early treatment with antibiotics is important. Again, all agencies indicate that if indeed you have concerns to please contact your primary care provider

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