



What is it?

- A rare infection of the tissue covering the brain and spinal cord.
- A medical emergency. Must be seen by doctor immediately.

What are the symptoms?

- Appear suddenly.
- Fever, chills and intense headache.
- Nausea and often vomiting.
- Stiff neck.
- Confusion and irritability.
- Frequently a pink rash. Sometime blisters will form.
- Becomes delirious. Can lead to coma and death.

How quickly do symptoms develop?

- Usually within 2 to 10 days, commonly 3 to 4 days after contact with an infected person.

How is it spread?

- Direct contact with oral secretions, including respiratory droplets, from the nose and throat of infected people. ~~By close contact with the nose and throat discharges of an infected person.~~

Examples include sharing food, drinking glasses, water bottles, eating utensils and cigarettes; performing mouth to mouth resuscitation and kissing.

- ~~▪ Household members of an infected person are considered close contacts.~~

How long is it contagious?

- Until the germ is no longer present in discharges from the nose and throat; i.e. usually 24-48 hours after start of antibiotic treatment.

How is it treated?

- With antibiotic medication, usually given intravenously.
- ~~Also~~ Oral antibiotic medication is often recommended for close contacts and sometimes for all daycare contacts. All household members of an infected person are considered

close contacts.

What can you do?

- Make sure your child is up to date with immunizations. Children 2 months to 5 years of age are routinely immunized against one type of meningitis; i.e. Haemophilus influenza b. Children aged one year are immunized against Meningococcal C. Children in Grade 7 are immunized against 4 types of meningitis; i.e. Meningococcal A, C, Y & W-135.
- If travelling outside of Canada or U.S.A. the check with your local health unit regarding vaccination recommendations.
- Do not share personal items, including eating utensils, food, water glasses, water bottles or cigarettes.
- Practice good hand washing

Whom should I talk to if I have any questions?

Communicable Disease Control, Algoma Public Health at (705) 942-4646, www.algomapublichealth.com, or your health care provider.