



CONFIDENTIAL

To,
Community Pharmacists
NHS Portsmouth, NHS Fareham and Gosport and NHS South Eastern Hampshire
CCGs

18/10/2018

Dear Colleague,

Re: Cases of meningococcal infection in University of Portsmouth

I am writing to inform you that there have been two cases of confirmed meningococcal group B disease in the last three weeks. Both cases are students at the University of Portsmouth and reside at Catherine House, Stanhope Road, Portsmouth, PO1 1DZ. Both cases are doing well.

The close contacts of the two cases were identified and given antibiotic prophylaxis soon after the cases were reported. However, as we have had two cases in a short space of time, working in conjunction with the community nursing team from Solent NHS Trust, we will be offering antibiotic prophylaxis with a single dose of Ciprofloxacin to residents of Catherine House (~1000 individuals) on the 19th October. In the event of any residents of Catherine House being unable to attend the session on Friday 19th October, Solent NHS Trust will set up a 'mop up' session on Monday the 22nd October.

This letter is for your information only. Wider contacts such as classmates and friends are not at any greater risk than the rest of the population and do not need antibiotic prophylaxis.

A warn and inform letter has been sent to all the students and staff from the University of Portsmouth which describes signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease. If a Student or university staff member contacts you requesting advice, they can be reassured that all necessary public health actions have been taken. Individuals who present to you for advice with concerning symptoms should be urged to seek medical attention in line with your normal practice.

Some signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease:

Meningitis

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Severe headache
- Stiff neck
- Dislike of bright light

Septicaemia(blood infection)

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Bruising rash
- Rapid breathing
- Cold hands and feet
- Joint/muscle pain

Please contact the Health Protection Team on the number above if you have any queries regarding this information.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anand Fernandes
Consultant in Health Protection
Public Health England South East Centre