



To:	General Practices, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions
From:	Dr Annette Nesdale, Medical Officer of Health
Date:	20 August 2015
Title:	Meningococcal disease Japan

Please distribute the following advisory to relevant staff in your organisation.

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Meningococcal disease outbreak in attendees of World Scout Jamboree in Japan, 28 July-8 August 2015.

ADVISORY SUMMARY: There have been 8 cases (5 confirmed and 3 suspected) of meningococcal disease in attendees of the World Scout Jamboree in Japan. The seven scouts and a parent became ill after returning to their home countries. There are 4 cases in Scotland and 4 in Sweden. The Jamboree organisers have sent information to all attendees. Although it is more than 10 days since the Jamboree ended please maintain vigilance for illness in the 30 New Zealand attendees or their close contacts.

Background: On 13 August 2015, the World Health Organisation (WHO) was notified of two cases of meningococcal disease (serogroup W) in scouts from Scotland who had attended the recent World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) in Japan, 28 July-8 August 2015. Two additional cases were later identified in Scotland, including one parent of a scout (who was not a case).

As of 18 August, one case and three suspected cases have been reported from WSJ attendees from Sweden. One Swedish case is hospitalised and in a critical condition.

30 people (23 scouts of both genders, age range 14-18 years, and seven adults) from New Zealand attended the WSJ. As the New Zealand participants were located far away from the scout units demonstrating infection, and the upper range of incubation for meningococcal disease is generally 10 days, as with the WSJ having ended 8 August, the likelihood of any cases occurring now in New Zealand is low. Nonetheless, hospitals and PHUs should be vigilant for cases in attendees or close contacts of attendees.

Neisseria meningitidis is transmitted from person-to-person through respiratory or throat secretions from infected persons / persons carrying the bacteria. Close and prolonged contact, or living in close quarters with an infected person, facilitates the spread of meningococcal disease. Incubation period varies from 2 to 10 days (average 4 days). Meningococcal disease is potentially fatal and should always be viewed as a

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He ture no nga korero katoa kei roto o tenei karere, no reira, kia tupato. Mehemea kaore matau kua e mau. Me whakamohiotia atu ki to Tari, me te mea nana I tonu mai. E Tika Hoki.

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medical emergency. Even when the disease is diagnosed early and adequate treatment is started, 5% to 10% of patients die, typically within 24 to 48 hours after the onset of symptoms.

The WSJ has notified all attendees regarding the outbreak and has distributed information about the disease through the national Scout leadership groups. This precautionary approach seeks to inform all participants of the 23rd World Scout Jamboree of the risk of meningococcal disease and suggests they seek medical attention if they experience any of the following signs and symptoms:

- Stiff neck
- High fever
- Sensitivity to light
- Confusion, change in mental status
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Rash, bruising
- Joint, muscle pain

For any questions, please contact the Communicable Disease Team at the Ministry of Health.