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City of Milwaukee Health Department Reports Case of Bacterial Meningitis

MILWAUKEE – The City of Milwaukee Health Department has received a report of a probable case of bacterial meningitis (meningococcal disease) in a student affiliated with Marquette University, and is working closely with the Marquette University Medical Clinic to begin appropriate communication and follow-up with close contacts.

Meningococcal disease is spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions such as saliva or mucus, and is most commonly spread through direct, close contact with an infected individual, which can include kissing, sharing of beverages or eating utensils, lip balm. It is not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been.

Symptoms include rapid onset of a fever, headache and stiff neck. Other symptoms can include vomiting, rash, and confusion. It can result in serious health consequences and requires immediate medical attention.

Bacterial meningitis can be treated with antibiotics. Antibiotics may also be recommended for those in close contact with an infected person to decrease the risk of spreading disease. There are also vaccines available to protect against certain types of meningitis.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/meningitis.

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