



KDS/JSS

20 December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to inform you that one of the children who attends Crestwood Community School (Cherbourg Campus) has today been admitted to hospital with suspected meningitis and is receiving the best possible care.

We are writing to reassure you that Public Health England have taken all necessary action to reduce the risk of any further cases. No action is necessary at the present time. There is no reason to make any change in the school routine and no reason for children to be kept at home.

We would also like to reassure you that the risk to your child is extremely small. The bacteria that cause the disease live naturally in the back of the nose and throat. About one in ten of the population carries the bacteria without any ill effect to themselves or others. The bacteria do not spread easily and only those who have had prolonged close contact with an affected person have an increased chance of developing the illness; others have the same risk as the rest of the population. Antibiotics have been recommended for members of the child's family and all those who need antibiotics have already been contacted.

Although the risk of another case in the school is very small, it is sensible to be aware of the signs and symptoms, which are outlined below. The bacteria can cause either meningitis (inflammation of the membranes around the brain) or septicaemia (blood poisoning) or both. This disease can be serious. It is therefore important that it is dealt with very quickly, as it can be treated most effectively in the early stages.

Signs and symptoms:

<b>Meningitis</b>	<b>Septicaemia</b>
Fever	Fever
Vomiting	Vomiting
Severe headache	Bruising / rash
Stiff neck	Rapid breathing
Dislike of bright light	Joint / muscle pain
Seizures	Cold hands and feet
Confusion / irritability	Confusion / irritability
Extreme sleepiness / difficulty waking	Extreme sleepiness / difficulty waking

Not all of these signs and symptoms may show at once and meningococcal disease can be hard to identify at first because it can be like a bad case of flu. However, an affected child will usually become seriously ill within a few hours and in this case you should contact your GP (family doctor) or NHS 111 urgently.

**Crestwood Community School**

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CRESTWOOD  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Further information is available from:

- NHS 111
- Public Health England, [www.tinyurl.com/n32ga6x](http://www.tinyurl.com/n32ga6x)
- The Meningitis Research Foundation, [www.meningitis.org](http://www.meningitis.org) 0808 800 3344
- Meningitis Now, [www.meningitisnow.org](http://www.meningitisnow.org) 0808 80 10 388

Yours sincerely

Krista Dawkins  
Headteacher

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