



THE ACADEMIES OF OKLAHOMA

(405) 380-9010 office · (405) 716-4645 fax · P.O. Box 1681, Seminole, OK 74818
taos@theacademyof.org · www.theacademyofseminole.org

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE INFORMATION

Oklahoma State Law 70 § 1210.195 requires dissemination of the following information on Meningococcal Disease Source: Communicable Disease Division – Oklahoma State Department of Health What is Meningococcal disease? Meningococcal disease is a disease caused by the bacteria Neisseria Meningitidis . This bacteria can infect the blood, causing septicemia. It can also infect the covering of the brain and spinal cord, causing meningitis. In Oklahoma, the number of Neisseria meningitis cases have been on the decline since 2000, with case numbers ranging from 34 in 2000 to ten in 2004. 15 How is the disease spread? Meningococcal disease spreads by direct contact with the saliva or with respiratory droplets from the nose and throat of an infected person. Who is at risk of getting this disease? Anyone can get meningococcal disease. For some adolescents, such as first year college students living in dormitories, there is an increased risk of meningococcal disease. Other persons at increased risk include household contacts of a person known to have had this. disease, immunocompromised people, people without a spleen, and people traveling to parts of the world where meningococcal meningitis is more common. These persons should talk to their physician about the meningococcal vaccine. What are the symptoms? People can carry the bacteria in their nose and throat without becoming ill. People ill with septicemia may have fever, nausea, vomiting, and a rash. People that are ill with meningitis will have fever, intense headache, nausea, vomiting, and a stiff neck. It is important to seek care from a physician as soon as possible if these symptoms appear. Meningococcal disease can have a high risk of death if it is not treated promptly.