



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Jan. 11, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

School Contact: Director of Special Education and Pupil Services (619) 588-3265

EL CAJON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT HAS MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

*County Health and Human Services Agency Investigating;
School Officials Notifying Parents, Staff*

The San Diego County HHSA (Health and Human Services Agency) is working with Cajon Valley Union School District officials to notify parents and staff who were possibly exposed to meningococcal disease at Flying Hills Elementary School in El Cajon.

School officials have sent notices to parents and staff notifying them of possible exposure from a student at the school and alerting them to watch children for signs of meningococcal disease. The ill student was hospitalized and is recovering.

“We are glad the child is improving. Meningococcal disease is spread by close contact. Parents should warn their children not to share food, drinks, water bottles and lip balm, to reduce the spread of this and other diseases,” said County Public Health Officer Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H. “While all children should get the meningococcal vaccine between ages 11 -12, those who are at high risk are recommended to get it between ages 2 -10. Talk to your physician for more information.”

Symptoms of meningococcal disease may include fever, intense headache, stiff neck, and/or a rash that does not change color under pressure. Anyone who develops any of these symptoms should be taken immediately to a healthcare provider or emergency room to be evaluated for possible meningococcal disease. It takes 3-4 days for symptoms to appear after exposure to this disease.

Individuals with no medical provider, or anyone who would like more information, may call the HHSA Community Epidemiology Branch at (619) 515-6620. For more information about immunizations, contact the HHSA Immunizations Branch at (619) 692-8661 or visit the website at www.sdiz.com.

###