



Teresa Frankovich, MD, MPH
Humboldt County Health Officer
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phone: (707) 445-6200 | fax: (707) 445-6097

March 5, 2020

Dear Parents,

I know there has been concern about a possible case of bacterial meningitis in a student attending Arcata High School.

There are different bacteria and viruses that can cause meningitis. Only one bacteria, Neisseria meningitidis, requires antibiotic treatment for close contacts in this type of setting.

I want to assure parents that Public Health has investigated and there is no suspected or confirmed case of Neisseria meningitis in a student attending this school. There is no need for medication to prevent infection at this time.

I understand your concern because bacterial meningitis is a serious infection that usually has symptoms of fever, headache, stiff neck and often vomiting. These symptoms always indicate the need for prompt medical care.

At this time, there is no preventative action that you need to take, and there is no need to have your child remain home from school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Teresa Frankovich, MD, MPH
Humboldt County Public Health Officer



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Public Health
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ARCATA HIGH SCHOOL

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OFFICE (707) 825-2400 • FAX (707) 825-2407

Dave Navarre—Principal, Jim Monge—Vice Principal, Mark Sahlberg—Dean of Students



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March 5, 2020

Dear Arcata High Parents,

This is an update regarding the Arcata High School student who remains under treatment at a hospital in the Bay Area. The student's parents appreciate the support and prayers from students, staff and community.

The hospital requests that you do not communicate with them directly and the student's parents are asking for privacy at this time. We are in direct contact with the family, in addition to the Humboldt County Health Department, the Bay Area hospital, and other health professionals. We will continue to update information as it becomes available.

Attached is a letter from Dr. Teresa Frankovich from the Humboldt County Health Department addressed to our parents. Additionally, a doctor at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital San Francisco has confirmed that the risk of spreading viral encephalitis is minimal. Those who have been in close contact with a patient and have headache and general malaise, or any other health concerns, should speak to their doctor.

Please call the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

David Navarre

Principal

Johnny Kell, RN CSN

NHUHSD Nurse