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Update on Meningitis Case at Saint Mary's College

Contra Costa Public Health has concluded its investigation of a meningitis case involving a student at Saint Mary's College in Moraga.

Lab tests could not confirm what kind of bacteria caused the meningitis in the student, who is recovering. Because meningitis can be a very serious illness, public health officials are asking the Saint Mary's community to seek medical attention immediately if they experience any of the following symptoms:

- High fever
- Severe headache
- Rash
- Body aches/joint pain
- Nausea/vomiting
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Confusion

Contra Costa Public Health learned of the student's illness on the morning of Monday, April 20. Public Health has worked closely with Saint Mary's College officials to respond and prevent others who may have been exposed from becoming sick. No other cases have been reported.

Saint Mary's officials notified people who were in close contact with the ill student and provided nearly 60 of them with antibiotics by Monday evening. Campus facilities staff also provided increased cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms and classrooms. Information about the situation and disease was disseminated on campus and at the school's Health and Wellness Center.

Because lab tests were unable to determine the kind of bacteria that made the Saint Mary's student ill, Contra Costa Public Health is not recommending further action at this time.

There are many kinds of meningitis, including bacterial meningitis, a serious and sometimes fatal disease. It is important for students and others to be up to date with recommended vaccinations. Covering coughs, keeping hands clean and staying home when sick are also actions everyone can take to stay healthy, protect themselves from illness, and prevent the spread of infections to others.

For more information about meningitis, visit cchealth.org/meningitis

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