



health

Department of
Health
FREE STATE PROVINCE

MENINGITIS

Case Definition

Any person with fever and neck stiffness should be considered as a suspected case

Case Management:

Any such person should be referred urgently to nearest health centre

Contacts/family

This disease can be transmitted from one person to another especially at close contact, e.g. classroom, barracks, crèches, etc. Vaccination and prophylaxis helps in the prevention of the disease

Health Education:

All community members should be informed about the disease. The community should be informed that meningococcal meningitis is a serious communicable disease transmitted from person to person through the respiratory tract. Many persons may harbour the germ without becoming sick.

Changes in the weather, especially warm, dry and dusty conditions weaken natural defence mechanisms and may help the germ to cause clinical symptoms. Crowding and poor ventilation should be avoided.

There is an effective vaccine against the disease. Although, the current vaccine protects for a period limited to three years, it is very effective for the control of starting outbreaks. There is also an effective treatment. Early treatment help prevent death and complications.