

R. Joseph Ebel, R.S., M.S., M.B.A.  
Health Commissioner



(740)349-6535  
(740)349-6474 WIC  
(740)349-6475 Environmental  
(740)349-6476 Nursing  
(740)349-6510 FAX  
[www.lickingcohealth.org](http://www.lickingcohealth.org)

## Licking County Health Department

675 Price Road

Newark, OH 43055

### **For Immediate Release**

### **Meningitis Case Confirmed At OSU-Newark Campus**

**March 22, 2011**

LICKING COUNTY, OHIO – The Licking County Health Department has confirmed an OSU-Newark student has contracted meningitis.

“Our department has confirmed a case of bacterial meningitis involving a student attending the Ohio State University-Newark Campus.” said Joe Ebel, Licking County Health Commissioner. “Our staff will continue to work with the university and the student’s family to notify those individuals who may have been in close contact with the student and assist them in receiving the necessary antibiotic treatment.”

Meningitis is an infection of the spinal cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain. Symptoms of the disease can include: high fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, and vomiting. The disease can be spread through direct contact with the patient’s respiratory fluids. This type of exposure can occur through coughing or kissing. In some cases persons with prolonged contact with the patient can also be at risk from contracting the disease. Close contacts would include those living in the same household as the patient and others with frequent close personal contact.

A vaccine is available to prevent bacterial meningitis, and those wishing to receive the vaccine should contact their healthcare provider or the Health Department. The Health Department recommends all incoming college freshman receive the vaccine before attending school in order to protect them against the disease.

For more information regarding meningitis please visit [www.lickingcohealth.org](http://www.lickingcohealth.org) or call the Health Department at 740-349-6535.

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