



VIRAL MENINGITIS

What is viral meningitis?

- Viral meningitis is an illness with swelling of the tissue surrounding the brain and spinal cord caused by one of several types of viruses. It is the most common type of meningitis

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Sudden onset of fever
- Severe headache
- Stiff neck
- Bright lights hurting the eyes
- Drowsiness or confusion
- Nausea/vomiting
- Rash

How is it spread?

- By direct contact with respiratory secretions (saliva, sputum, or nasal mucus) or stool of an infected person
- Symptoms usually develop between 3-7 days from the time of exposure and last about 10 days
- A person is contagious about 3 days after exposure until about 10 days after symptoms develop

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider and laboratory testing of spinal fluid
- Treatment is aimed at relief of symptoms

Should the sick child be isolated?

- No

When can the child return to day care or school?

- When recommended by primary care provider

Should schools do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-3612

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.