

10 June 2010

Dr Roscoe Taylor
Director of Public Health

Meningococcal Case in North

The Director of Public Health, Dr Roscoe Taylor, said today that a case of meningococcal disease had been confirmed in the North of the state.

Dr Taylor said laboratory tests had confirmed yesterday that an eight-year-old girl in the Launceston General Hospital had Group B meningococcal infection.

Dr Taylor said the girl was admitted over the weekend and was in a satisfactory condition and recovering well from the infection.

“This is only the third meningococcal case in Tasmania this year.

“Cases of Group C infection have decreased dramatically in Tasmania since the introduction of a routine vaccine at 12 months of age in 2003, but this is a Group B infection, which is not covered by the meningococcal C vaccine and is a reminder that the disease can still occur.

“The child attends the Hagley school. It is highly unlikely there will be further cases, but a letter from myself is being sent through the school to all families to provide routine advice and assurance that parents can send their children to school as usual when classes resume next Tuesday.

“Our routine advice is for parents to keep an eye out for symptoms and to contact their doctor without delay if they have any concerns.

“Symptoms can include muscle aches and pains, headaches, neck stiffness, fever, drowsiness, nausea and skin rash.”

Further information on meningococcal infection can be obtained from the DHHS website, www.dhhs.tas.gov.au or by contacting the Public & Environmental Health Service Hotline – 1800 671 738.

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