



# JEFFERSON COUNTY General Health District

— Prevent. Promote. Protect. —

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 18, 2023

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### **Meningococcal Disease Outbreak Update**

**STEBENVILLE, OH** – Jefferson County has been working on a local outbreak of meningitis (serotype B) in the Amish community near Bergholz. The JCGHD was notified of the first case on Monday, December 4. In total, ten children under the age of eight became ill as either a confirmed or suspected case. Families of the confirmed/suspected cases were provided with post exposure prophylaxis by either Akron or UPMC Children's.

With the understanding that meningitis does not spread as easily or as rapidly as a typical respiratory virus, it was not initially recommended to provide prophylaxis to the entire Amish community. However, the disease continued to slowly spread throughout the pediatric population in the community with the most recent case being reported on Tuesday, December 12. In order to slow the spread, the JCGHD met the remaining untreated residents to provide them with prophylaxis on Wednesday, December 13. Medical countermeasures were provided to 74 residents via a mobile Clinic at the Bergholz Volunteer Fire Department. As of Monday, December 18, the last case reported was 6 days ago.