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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Meningococcal Disease Alert

[Ventura County, CA] – Since November 2016, 5 cases of meningococcal disease have occurred in students who attend Oregon State University (OSU) located in Corvallis, Oregon. Two of these cases have occurred in the last few weeks. Many of these OSU students come from California (3,000) and will be at home here in Ventura County over the holidays. As many as 100 students from OSU may return to this county. This particular serogroup of meningococcal organism is not covered by the older 4-serogroup vaccine. The older vaccine covers meningococcal serogroups A, C, Y and W135. The type of meningococcus that is responsible for this most recent outbreak is the serogroup B. So students who have previously been immunized with meningococcal vaccine cannot feel confident that they've been immunized against the correct vaccine serogroup.

What all of this means for our county is that some of these students may develop symptoms of this very serious and fast-moving disease while home for their winter break. Symptoms to be on the lookout for include fever, rash (flat, dark purple spots on the arms, legs and torso), severe headache, severe body aches, nausea and/or vomiting, feeling very drowsy or weak, stiff neck and confusion.

Students from OSU and from any other university in Oregon who have not previously been vaccinated against Meningococcus group B should start or complete their vaccination series while at home here in Ventura County.

If a student or a close contact of a student from OSU or any other Oregon university develops any of the symptoms typical of meningococcal disease, please take them to be evaluated by your provider. Meningococemia is a treatable disease but it is also a very aggressive one.

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