



Fort Leavenworth Media Relations

News Releases

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One confirmed case of viral meningitis

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan.— A Fort Leavenworth resident was confirmed to have viral meningitis on Dec. 12, 2012. The individual is currently being treated in a Kansas City area hospital.

Viral meningitis is a form of meningitis that generally resolves in 7 to 10 days without requiring antibiotics or other specific treatment.

Viral meningitis is caused by a variety of viruses like the enterovirus, however only a small number of people with enterovirus infections actually develop meningitis.

Much like the influenza virus, viral meningitis is most commonly spread from person to person through poor hand hygiene or respiratory secretions (coughing, sneezing, etc.).

Contact with a person infected with viral meningitis might increase the chance of becoming infected with the virus that made them sick (like enterovirus); however there is a small chance of developing meningitis as a complication of the illness.

Individuals who might have been exposed to the virus do not need prophylactic or preventive treatment. The best way to prevent viral meningitis is to prevent the spread of any viral infections through proper hand hygiene and not sharing things like drinking glasses or eating utensils when sick.

A viral meningitis infection is characterized by a headache, stiff neck and a fever and can also include nausea, vomiting and sensitivity to light.

Individuals who believe they have symptoms of the virus or any other health concerns are encouraged to follow-up with their physician.

For more information about viral meningitis, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/meningitis/viral.html or call the Munson Army Health Center Preventive Medicine Clinic at (913) 684-6539.

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