

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

December 7, 2017

Dear Parents:

A child who attends the YWCA Carol Glassman Donaldson Center Day Care located at 112 NW 3rd Street in Miami, Florida, 33128 was recently diagnosed with pneumococcal meningitis. This meningitis is caused by a very common bacterium called *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, which causes ear infections, pneumonia, and rarely meningitis. Symptoms of meningitis include fever, severe headache, stiff neck, drowsiness or confusion, nausea, and vomiting.

These bacteria are common and are spread from person to person by sneezing and coughing, direct contact with saliva, sputum or nasal mucus of infected people. The most effective way to prevent this illness is to wash hands thoroughly and frequently, use proper respiratory hygiene, not to share eating or drinking utensils, and dispose of tissues properly.

If your child has sickle cell anemia, HIV, no spleen, kidney disease, or any condition or medication that affects their immune system, please call his or her doctor.

If your child develops symptoms as described above, please get medical care as early as possible.

For more information, call the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade Miami-Dade Epidemiology, Disease Control and Immunization Services (EDC-IS) at (305) 470-5660.

Sincerely,

Reynald Jean, MD, MPH, MSN, AGPCNP-BC