

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

WHAT IS MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE?

Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious bacterial infection. This disease is caused when the bacteria enter the blood (blood stream infection) or surrounding tissue of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis). **It can be treated with antibiotics, but treatment must begin as soon as possible. Meningococcal disease can be deadly in a matter of hours.**

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE?

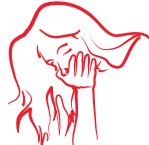
Symptoms can come on fast and include:



High fever



Stiff neck



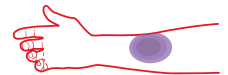
Vomiting



Intense headache



Muscle aches



Dark purple rash

HOW DOES MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE SPREAD?

People spread the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease to others through:



Kissing



Sharing tobacco or vaping products



Sharing toothbrushes



Spit or saliva



Sharing anything that comes in contact with saliva

WHO IS MOST AT RISK FOR MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE?

- Babies
- Teens and young adults (16 – 23 year olds)
- Adults 65+
- Individuals who are immunocompromised
- Individuals who travel to places where the disease is common
- Living in close quarters with someone who is infected

HOW CAN MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE BE PREVENTED?

Meningococcal disease is vaccine-preventable. Preteens and teens should get one dose of the MenACWY vaccine at 11 or 12 years of age and get a booster dose at 16. Teens and young adults (16 – 23) may also be vaccinated with the MenB vaccine.

Younger children and other adults usually do not need meningococcal vaccines. However, people with HIV or other compromised immune systems, people whose spleen has been removed, or people traveling to places where the disease is common should be vaccinated.

TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT WHICH VACCINES YOU OR YOUR CHILD MAY NEED.

For more information visit cdc.gov/meningococcal/ or call **1-866-PUB-HLTH**.

IF YOU BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE SYMPTOMS, CONTACT YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IMMEDIATELY.