

**Invasive  
Meningococcal  
Disease** can take  
a child's life in just  
24 hours<sup>1</sup>

**You can prevent it.  
Make vaccination  
a priority.**



# What is Meningococcal Meningitis?

- ✿ Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial form of meningitis caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, a serious infection of the meninges that affects the brain membrane.<sup>2</sup>
- ✿ The onset of Meningococcal disease is rapid and can be fatal within 24 hours even when the best healthcare is available.<sup>1</sup>
- ✿ Meningococcal disease can be difficult to recognize, especially in its early stages because the features that appear earliest were common to many self-limiting viral illnesses. The symptoms that appear in the first 4-8 hours include, fever, headache, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and sore throat<sup>3</sup>
- ✿ Classic features of Meningococcal meningitis develop later in 13-22 hours<sup>3</sup>
- ✿ Meningococcal disease may rapidly progress to death even in those who receive early antibiotic treatment.<sup>4</sup>
- ✿ Even when the disease is diagnosed early and adequate treatment is started, 5% to 10% of patients die, typically within 24 to 48 hours after the onset of symptoms.<sup>2</sup>
- ✿ Many of the people who survive meningococcal meningitis can be left with serious medical problems that may include:<sup>4</sup>
  - ▶ Hearing loss
  - ▶ Neurologic disability
  - ▶ Loss of limb





## Who's at Risk for Meningitis?

- 👤 Meningococcal disease is more commonly diagnosed among infants, adolescents and young adults.<sup>5</sup>
- 👤 There are certain diseases, medications and surgical procedures that put people at increased risk of meningococcal disease, such as not having a spleen.<sup>5</sup>
- 👤 People living in closed settings (e.g. dormitory; military etc.)<sup>2,5,6,7</sup>
- 👤 Travelers to the meningitis belt in Sub-Saharan Africa may be at risk for meningococcal disease, particularly during the dry season.<sup>5</sup>



## How Meningococcal Disease Spreads?

- 👤 Anyone can get meningococcal disease.<sup>6</sup>
- 👤 The disease is transmitted from person-to-person through droplets of respiratory or throat secretions from carriers.<sup>2</sup>

Close and prolonged contact such as<sup>2</sup>

- ▶ Sharing eating or drinking utensils with an infected person
- ▶ Sneezing or coughing on someone
- ▶ Living in close quarters (such as a dormitory)
- ▶ Kissing

# Protect your Family now!

- Now that you know how dangerous meningococcal disease is, take action right away. Ask your child's health-care provider to schedule a vaccination appointment
- Invasive Meningococcal Meningitis (IMD) may rapidly progress to death, even in those who receive early antibiotic treatment<sup>4</sup>

Ask your Doctor for more  
information about meningitis  
prevention



## References:

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5. <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/about/risk-factors.html> (Last accessed on March 22, 2017)
6. CDC Vaccine Information Statement on Meningococcal Vaccines
7. <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/clinical-info.html> (Last accessed on March 22, 2017)
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