

THOUGH RARE, MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS CAN DESTROY LIVES. IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS, IT CAN CAUSE BRAIN DAMAGE, LOST LIMBS — EVEN DEATH.

Make sure your teens gets a second meningitis vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that teens get a meningitis booster shot at ages 16 to 18. Even if they already received a meningitis shot at age 11 or 12 years, they still need a second vaccination as early as age 16.

“I lost both of my legs, my kidneys, my spleen, part of my hearing, and almost my life to meningitis. And I’m one of the lucky ones.”

- Amy Purdy

Olympic snowboarder and meningitis survivor

Join the Voices of Meningitis community

Meet real people who have experienced the devastating effects of meningitis and help us spread the word about meningitis vaccination.



Like us on Facebook.

Visit www.facebook.com/VoicesofMeningitis



Watch our Stories of Meningitis series.

Visit www.youtube.com/user/voicesofmeningitis

LEARN MORE ABOUT MENINGITIS VACCINATION AT WWW.VOICESOFMENINGITIS.ORG



Make sure your teens get a second shot to help protect them from meningitis.

Scan here to watch how meningitis can erase years of growing up.

VOICES OF MENINGITIS™

A Meningococcal Disease Prevention Campaign from the National Association of School Nurses
In collaboration with Sanofi Pasteur

Voices of Meningitis is a program of the NASN in collaboration with Sanofi Pasteur



They'll Always Be Your Babies.

MAKE SURE YOUR TEENS GET A SECOND SHOT TO HELP PREVENT MENINGITIS.

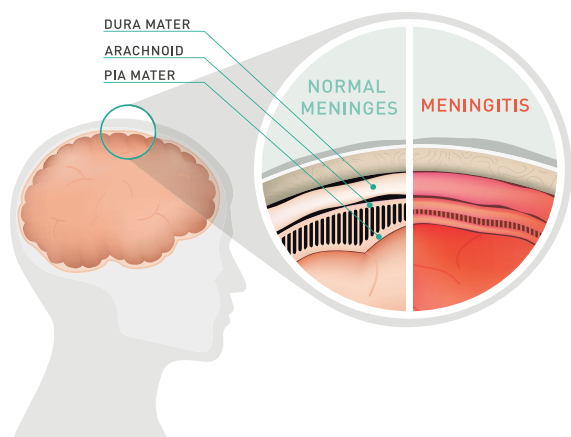


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What is meningitis?

Meningitis is defined as an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord.

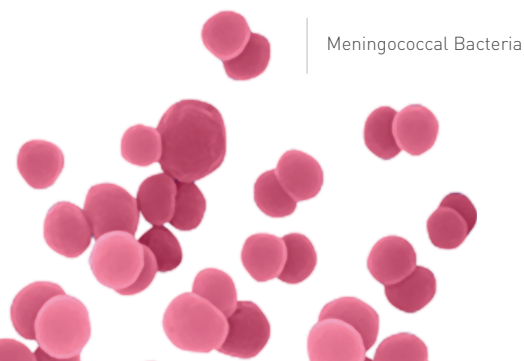


Meningococcal meningitis and meningococcal sepsis

Meningococcal meningitis occurs when bacteria called meningococci infect the lining of the brain or spinal cord. When these same bacteria get into the bloodstream, they can cause another serious condition known as meningococcal sepsis.

Meningococcal disease

Meningococcal disease, which includes meningococcal meningitis and meningococcal sepsis, is defined as any infection that's caused by meningococcal bacteria. Although rare, it's very serious and potentially life-threatening.

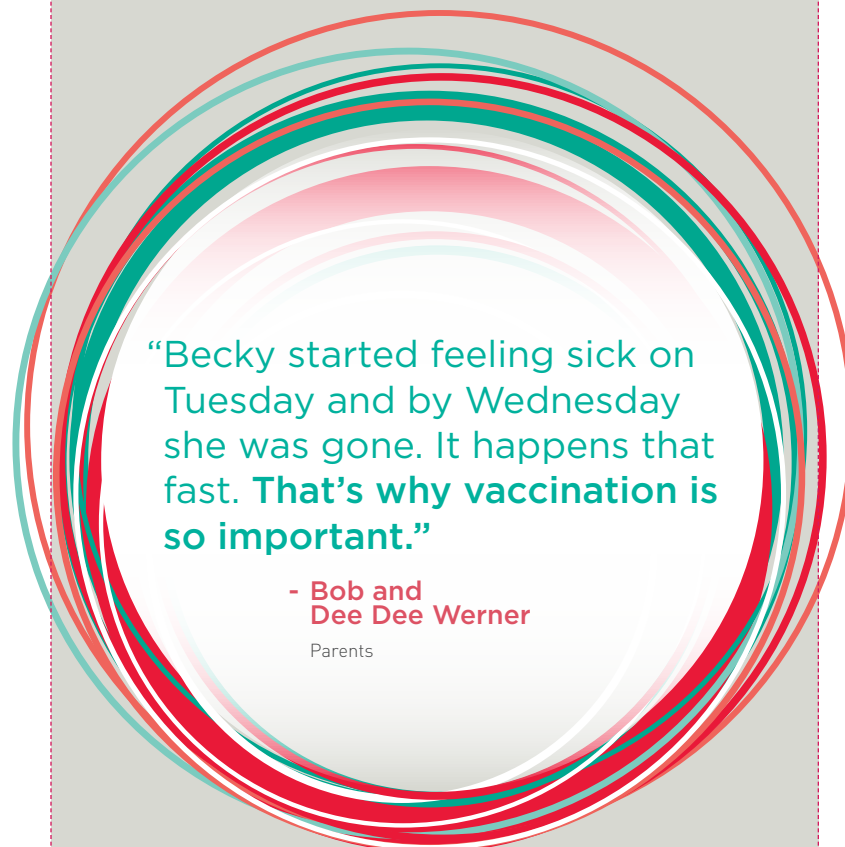


In 24 hours, meningitis can have devastating consequences

About 1 in 5 people who survive meningococcal meningitis can suffer permanent consequences, such as:

- Amputation of limbs, fingers, or toes
- Severe scarring
- Brain damage
- Hearing loss
- Kidney damage

If you ever suspect that your child has meningitis, go to the emergency room right away, where he or she can be evaluated and receive prompt medical care.



“Becky started feeling sick on Tuesday and by Wednesday she was gone. It happens that fast. **That’s why vaccination is so important.**”

- Bob and Dee Dee Werner
Parents

Teens are at risk

Teenagers and young adults are at greater risk for meningococcal meningitis. Despite their increased risk, millions of teens aren't fully vaccinated.

Meningococcal meningitis is contagious

The bacteria that cause meningococcal meningitis can be spread through the exchange of oral secretions (saliva) during common activities, such as:



KISSING



SHARING UTENSILS AND DRINKING GLASSES

Risk factors for meningococcal meningitis include:



LIVING IN CLOSE QUARTERS
(ie, dormitories)



SMOKING OR BEING EXPOSED TO SMOKE

OF THE **800 TO 1200** CASES OF MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS REPORTED IN THE US EACH YEAR, **10-15% ARE FATAL!**

*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease 2013.