

# Take 5 for meningitis

## The facts about meningococcal meningitis

Meningococcal disease, which is commonly known as meningococcal meningitis, is an **uncommon but serious disease** that can be deadly.



- **One in 10** people infected with meningitis will die.
- **One in five** of the survivors will suffer long-term disability, such as loss of limbs, brain damage, deafness and nervous system problems.<sup>1</sup>

## Vaccination can help prevent meningitis

Serogroups A, C, W, Y and B historically account for the majority of meningococcal meningitis cases in the United States.<sup>2</sup>



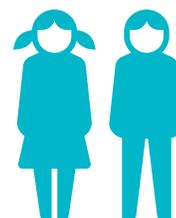
- Meningitis vaccines have been available in the U.S. since the 1980s to help protect against groups A, C, W and Y.<sup>3</sup>
- **Until 2014, there were no vaccines** to help protect against a fifth group called meningitis B, which causes one-third of the cases in the U.S.<sup>4</sup>
- Today, **there are two different types of vaccines and both are needed** to help protect against the five vaccine-preventable groups of meningitis.<sup>5</sup>

**Vaccines are the best defense** against bacterial meningitis.<sup>6</sup> Vaccination does not protect all recipients and does not prevent viral meningitis.

## Young adults could be at risk

**Young adults are at increased risk** for meningitis B because they often live, work and play in settings that foster close contact (e.g., schools, teams and clubs, camps, college dorms, military housing).<sup>7,8</sup> To date, most young adults have not been vaccinated against meningitis B.

- A 2015 Harris poll found that **83 percent of parents** want their children to be vaccinated against all five vaccine-preventable serogroups of the disease, including group B.<sup>9</sup>
- **Less than 10 percent** of young adults have received the vaccine that helps protect against meningitis B,<sup>10</sup> **which causes approximately 30 percent of the cases in the U.S.**<sup>11</sup>



## Take 5 to learn how to help prevent meningitis

It only takes a few minutes to learn the facts.

Talk to your doctor to learn more.



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 3. CDC. Meningococcal Vaccine Safety. November 2015. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaccines/meningococcal-vaccine.html>. Accessed March 2018.  
 4. CDC. Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Chapter 8: Meningococcal Disease. April 2014. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt08-mening.html>. Accessed May 2018.  
 5. CDC. Meningococcal Vaccination for Preteens and Teens: Information for Parents. May 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/public/adolescent-vaccine.html>. Accessed May 2018.  
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 7. CDC. Serogroup B Meningococcal (MenB) VIS. August 2016. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/mening-serogroup.html>. Accessed May 2018.  
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 9. Harris Poll. US Awareness Poll-Young Adults. Accessed February 2015.  
 10. GSK, data on file.  
 11. CDC. Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Chapter 8: Meningococcal Disease. April 2014. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt08-mening.html>. Accessed May 2018.