

Meningococcal Disease Can be Prevented and Treated

Meningococcal disease can lead to **meningitis** (infection and swelling of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and **septicemia** (infection of the bloodstream).

Getting Vaccinated is the Best Way to Protect Against Meningococcal Disease.

Anyone who has been exposed or develops symptoms should see a health care provider immediately. This is a rare but potentially devastating disease.

Meningococcal Meningitis

Symptoms can first appear as a flu-like illness and rapidly worsen.

Symptoms include:

- Fever, headache, and stiff neck.
- Nausea, vomiting, light sensitivity, and confusion.

Symptoms can differ in infants and may include:

- Slow or inactivity, irritability, vomiting, poor feeding, or a bulging soft spot on their head.

Meningococcal Septicemia

Symptoms of this blood stream infection may include:

- Fever and chills, fatigue, vomiting, cold hands and feet, rapid breathing, and diarrhea.
- Severe aches or pain in the muscles, joints, chest, or abdomen.
- In the later stages, a dark purple rash.

How It Spreads

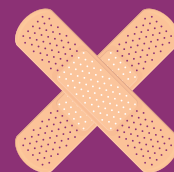
People do not get meningococcal disease through casual contact or by breathing air where someone with it has been. It requires close contact over a period of time, or direct contact such as kissing or sharing drinks.

Treatment

Health care providers treat meningococcal disease with a number of antibiotics. It is important that treatment start as soon as possible. If a health care provider suspects meningococcal disease, they will prescribe antibiotics right away.

Find **Meningococcal Vaccines** by Contacting a Health Care Provider, County Health Department, or Pharmacy.

Florida
HEALTH



Scan the QR code to learn more about meningococcal disease and preventive vaccines or visit:

ThePowerToProtect.org/Meningococcal