

Meningococcal Disease

Meningitis is a disease caused by the inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. It is usually caused by an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Bacterial meningitis is usually more severe than viral, fungal, or parasitic meningitis. Although it can be very serious, bacterial meningitis can be treated with antibiotics that can prevent severe illness and reduce the spread of infection from person to person.

Symptoms

- Fever
- Headache
- Stiff neck
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to light
- Altered mental status

Cause

- Bacterial: Spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions

Prevention

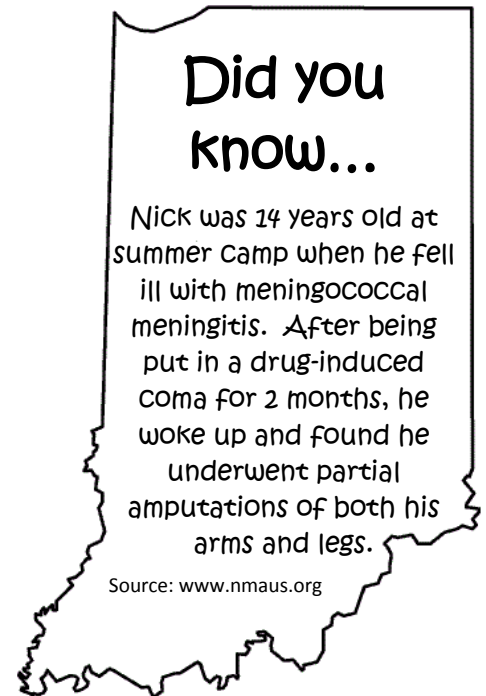
- Meningococcal vaccines

What are the Meningococcal vaccines?

- Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (**MCV4**) is for people 55 years of age and younger.
- Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (**MPSV4**) is for people older than 55.

Who should get it?

- Adolescents:
 - First dose at 11 or 12, with a booster at 16
 - If first dose is given after 16, then no booster is needed
- College freshmen living in dorms
- Anyone traveling
- U.S. military recruits
- Individuals with suppressed immunity



www.vaccinateindiana.org

Meningococcal Vaccines: What You Need to Know. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 14 Oct. 2011. PDF.

"Meningitis." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 12 May 2010. Web. 11 Mar. 2012. <<http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html>>.

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