

Meningitis

FACTS:

- About one in 100,000 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. Ten to fifteen percent of these people die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, another 11-19% lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous system, become mentally handicapped, or suffer seizures or strokes.
- Bacterial meningitis is of greater concern than viral meningitis, because it is associated with a significant risk of brain damage and death. Meningococcal meningitis, one type of bacterial meningitis, is of particular concern because while uncommon, it does affect college-age students and the disease may progress rapidly if untreated.
- The rate of meningococcal infection for students living in residence halls in the U.S. is about two in every 100,000 students. The rate of infection is highest among first year students living in residence halls, with about five in every 100,000 freshmen infected.

Back to School Month

RESOURCES:

Washtenaw County Public Health

<http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>

CDC's National Immunization Program

www.cdc.gov/nip

CDC's meningococcal disease website

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm

CDC's Travelers Health

www.cdc.gov/travel

Meningitis Foundation of America

<http://www.musa.org/>

National Meningitis Foundation

<http://www.nmaus.org/>



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by a bacteria or a virus. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children two to 18 years old in the United States. Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. This inflammation is usually caused by a bacteria or a virus. Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. But it is most common in infants less than one year of age and people with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen. College freshmen who live in dormitories have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal infections can be treated with drugs such as penicillin. Still, about one out of every 10 people get the disease dies from it, and many others are affected for life. This is why *preventing* the disease through the use of meningococcal vaccine is important for people at highest risk.

Meningococcal vaccine

Two meningococcal vaccines are available in the U.S.:

-**Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4)** has been available since the 1970s.

-**Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4)** was licensed in 2005.

Both vaccines can prevent four types of meningococcal disease, including two of the three types most common in the United States and a type that causes epidemics in Africa.

Who should get meningococcal vaccine and when?

MCV4 is recommended for all children at their routine preadolescent visit (11-12 years of age). For those who have never gotten MCV4 previously, a dose is recommended at high school entry. Other adolescents who want to decrease their risk of meningococcal disease can also get the vaccine. College freshmen living in dormitories, microbiologists who are routinely exposed to meningococcal bacteria, U.S. military recruits, anyone traveling to, or living in, a part of the world where meningococcal disease is common, such as parts of Africa, anyone who has a damaged spleen, or whose spleen has been removed, anyone who has an immune system disorder, and people who might have been exposed to meningitis during an outbreak are at an increased risk and should consider being vaccinated.

SERVICES AVAILABLE: Washtenaw County Public Health

Walk-In Clinics:

Clinics are held in the Human Services building at 555 Towner in Ypsilanti. No appointment necessary (Closed HOLIDAYS).

Note: Children under 18 years must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to receive immunizations.

Days and Hours:

Tuesdays 1-4 p.m.

Thursdays 1-4 p.m.

Fridays 1-4 p.m.

2nd Monday of the month 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Appointments:

Available on a limited basis during morning hours. To schedule an appointment call 734-544-6770.

For more information on available vaccinations and fees call 734-544-6770 or visit <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>.