

Meningococcal Disease

What is meningococcal disease?

- Meningococcal disease is any illness caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*.
- It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years of age in U.S.
- Meningococcal disease can be very serious, even life-threatening in 48 hours or less.
- The two most severe and common illnesses caused by meningococcal bacteria include;
 - Meningitis - an infection of the fluid and lining around the brain and spinal cord
 - Septicemia - a bloodstream infection

What are the symptoms?

- Symptoms of meningococcal disease are similar to influenza (flu) and may include:
 - Sudden onset of a high fever
 - Headache
 - Stiff neck
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Increased sensitivity to light
 - Rash
 - Confusion
 - Severe aches and pain in the muscles, joints, chest or belly

How does meningococcal disease spread?

- Meningococcal disease is spread person to person by sharing respiratory secretions, through kissing or coughing, close or lengthy contact, and among people who share a room or live in the same household.
- Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but teens and college freshmen who live in residence halls are at increased risk.
- Some people can “carry” meningococcal bacteria in their nose and throat without getting meningococcal disease, but can still infect other people.
- Most cases of meningococcal disease are spread by people who “carry” the bacteria with no symptoms, appear to be random, and not linked to other cases.
- Meningococcal outbreaks can occur in communities, schools, colleges, prisons, and in other high risk populations.

Where can I find more information?

- Ask your doctor.
- Call the Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, at 1-800-469-4599.
- Go to cdc.gov and type meningococcal disease in SEARCH box.



Alabama Department of Public Health
Epidemiology Division, 201 Monroe St, Montgomery, AL 36104
800-338-8374 www.adph.org

Meningococcal Vaccine

Who should get meningococcal vaccine?

- Adolescents 11 through 18 years of age are routinely recommended for two doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4).
- Preteens should get the first dose of MCV4 at their 11–12 years of age check-up and a booster dose of MCV4 is recommended at 16 years of age.
- Teenagers who missed a dose and are heading off to college as a freshman living in a residence hall. Ask your doctor about getting the vaccine now.
- Teenagers with HIV should get three doses of MCV4.
- People 55 years of age and older should get Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4).
- Both vaccines prevent 4 types of bacterial meningococcal disease.

Who should be vaccinated because they are at increased risk?

- College freshmen living in dormitories.
- Laboratory personnel exposed to meningococcal bacteria.
- U.S. military recruits.
- Anyone traveling or living where meningococcal disease is common, like Africa.
- Anyone with a damaged spleen or who had the spleen removed.
- Anyone with an immune system disorder.
- Anyone exposed during a meningococcal meningitis outbreak.

What are the vaccine side effects and risks?

- MCV4 is safe, but side effects can occur.
- Most side effects are mild or moderate and do not affect daily activities.
- The most common side effects in preteens and teens occur where the injection is given and may include pain, tenderness, swelling, and hardness of the skin.
- Other common side effects may include nausea, feeling a little run down, and headache.
- Some preteens and teens may also faint after getting a vaccine.
- Reactions usually last a short time and get better within a few days.

Where can I find more information?

- Ask your doctor.
- Call the Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, at 1-800-469-4599.
- Go to cdc.gov and type meningococcal vaccine in SEARCH box.



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ACT #2014-274

1 SB75
2 156308-2
3 By Senator Irons
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 14-JAN-14
6 PFD: 01/08/2014



1 SB75

2
3
4 ENROLLED, An Act,

5 To require local school systems to provide
6 information to parents and guardians of students in grades six
7 through 12 on meningococcal meningitis disease and its vaccine
8 whenever other health information is provided.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

10 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
11 as the Jessica Elkins Act.

12 Section 2. (a) If a local board of education
13 provides information on immunizations, infectious diseases,
14 medications, or other school health issues to parents and
15 guardians of students in grades six through 12, then all of
16 the following information about meningococcal meningitis
17 disease and its vaccine shall be included:

18 (1) A description of causes, symptoms, and means of
19 transmission.

20 (2) A list of sources for additional information.

21 (3) Related recommendations issued by the federal
22 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

23 (b) The State Department of Education, in
24 cooperation with the Department of Public Health, shall
25 develop and make available the information about meningococcal

1 meningitis disease and its vaccine to local school systems as
2 required under subsection (a) in an efficient manner that may
3 include posting the information on its website.

4 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
5 first day of the third month following its passage and
6 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Ray Ivey
President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

~~_____~~
Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB75
Senate 26-FEB-14
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed
the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Passed: 20-MAR-14

By: Senator Irons

APPROVED April 2, 2014

TIME 9:30 a.m.

Robert Bentley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State
Act Num....: 2014-274
Bill Num....: S-75

Recv'd 04/02/14 10:39amSLF

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Tammy Irons

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SENATE ACTION

DATE: 1-14 2014
 RD 1 RFD Health

I hereby certify that the notice & proof is attached to the Bill, SB _____ as required in the General Acts of Alabama, 1975 Act No. 919.
 PATRICK HARRIS, Secretary

This Bill was referred to the Standing Committee of the Senate on Health
 and was acted upon by such Committee in session and is by order of the Committee returned therefrom with a favorable report
 w/amd(s) _____ w/sub _____ w/eng sub _____
 yeas 7 nays 0 abstain 0
 this 5th day of February 2014
 [Signature], Chairperson

DATE: 2-6 2014
 RF FAU RD 2 CAL

I hereby certify that the Resolution as required in Section C of Act No. 81-889 was adopted and is attached to the Bill, SB 75
 yeas 27 nays 0 abstain 0
 PATRICK HARRIS, Secretary

DATE: 2-26-14 RD 3 at length
 PASSED PASSED AS AMENDED
 yeas 21 nays 1 abstain 0
 And was ordered sent forthwith to the House.

HOUSE ACTION

DATE: 2-27 2014
 RD 1 RFD Health

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
 This bill having been referred by the House to standing committee on Health
 was acted upon by such Committee in sessk and returned therefrom to the House with t recommendation that it be Passed,
 w/amd(s) _____ w/sub _____
 this 13th day of March 2014
 [Signature], Chairperson

DATE: 3-13 2014
 RF RD 2 C

DATE: _____ 20____
 RE-REFERRED RE-COMMITTED
 COMMITTEE _____

I hereby certify that the Resolution as required Section C of Act No. 81-889 was adopted and attached to the Bill, SB 75
 YEAS 10 NAYS 0
 JEFF WOOD