

# MENINGITIS

Meningococcal disease



## WHAT IS MENINGITIS?

**Meningitis** is an inflammation of the protective membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. **Bacterial meningitis can be life-threatening in a matter of hours.** Meningitis can cause brain damage, hearing loss, learning problems, or **even death if not treated quickly.**

## SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

**Meningitis vaccine (MCV4) is required for school attendance.**

- An initial dose is required upon entering 7th grade or as a new entrant in 8th-12th grade.
- A booster dose is required before entering 11th grade (when the child turns 16) unless the first dose was given on or after their 16th birthday.

## SYMPTOMS



Stiff Neck



Nausea or Vomiting



Headache



Muscle Aches



Rash



Fever >100.4

## HOW THE DISEASE SPREAD

Meningitis can spread through:

- Coughing or sneezing
- Kissing
- Sharing toothbrush, drinks, utensils, vapes
- Sharing anything that comes in contact with saliva

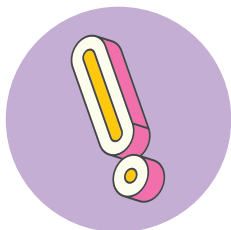


## CAN MENINGITIS BE PREVENTED?

Talk to your healthcare provider about the vaccine that's best for your child.

- **MenACWY vaccine** — protects against common types of bacterial meningitis; recommended for preteens + teens.
- **MenB vaccine** — offers protection against another type; recommended for teens and young adults (ages 16-23).
- **Hib & pneumococcal vaccines** — given to young children to prevent types of meningitis.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO?



If you think your child has meningitis:

- **Get medical help right away.**
- Go to the nearest hospital or call your doctor immediately.
- Early treatment with antibiotics can save your child's life.

## MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your child's doctor or school nurse.
- Visit [dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines](http://dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines)
- Contact your local health department.



For more information, visit [dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines](http://dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines)