

2022 Meningococcal Disease Outbreak

Florida is responding to a meningococcal disease outbreak. 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 be checked by a health care provider immediately. This is a rare but potentially devastating disease.

Outbreak-Associated At-Risk Groups

Although anyone can get meningococcal disease, the following groups should consider vaccination with a meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY) vaccine during this outbreak:

- Men who have sex with men.
- People living with HIV.
- Immunocompromised people:
 - Those whose spleen is damaged or removed, including people with sickle cell disease.
 - Anyone with a rare immune condition called "complement deficiency" or anyone taking a type of drug called a "complement inhibitor".
- People in any groups listed above who received their MenACWY vaccine more than 5 years ago.

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, confusion, and rash.

Meningococcal Septicemia (Meningococemia)

Symptoms 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.

Vaccination

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect against meningococcal disease.

Find the MenACWY vaccine by contacting a health care provider, county health department, or pharmacy.

Find your CHD at: bit.ly/FindYourCHD

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.

