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 (Meningococcemia)**

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.

Scan the QR code to learn more about meningococcal disease and preventive vaccines or visit: ThePowerToProtect.org/Meningococcal