

HAVE YOU MET MENINGITIS?

Meningococcal disease, which includes meningitis, is an uncommon, but potentially deadly, threat to adolescents and young adults¹

Meningitis is a bacterial infection that can attack the brain and spinal cord²

Here's what you need to know

Typical adolescent and young adult behavior can spread the bacteria^{2,3}



Close-quartered Living and Group Hangouts



Sharing Drinks or Utensils



Kissing

Early symptoms and long-term impact

Early symptoms can be misinterpreted as the flu, but meningococcal disease can potentially lead to permanent harm or death within 24 hours.^{2,4}



References: 1. Poland, GA. Prevention of meningococcal disease: current use of polysaccharide and conjugate vaccines. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2010;50(suppl 2):S45-S53. 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Meningococcal disease. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/index.html>. Updated April 1, 2014. Accessed October 16, 2014. 3. Tully J, Viner RM, Coen PG, et al. Risk and protective factors for meningococcal disease in adolescents: matched cohort study. *BMJ*. 2006;332(7539):445-450. 4. Thompson MJ, Ninis N, Perera R, et al. Clinical recognition of meningococcal disease in children and adolescents. *Lancet*. 2006;367(9508):397-403.