Meningococcal disease is an uncommon, but serious disease caused by the *Neisseria meningitidis* bacterium.[1] These bacteria can be categorized into 5 primary groups: A, C, Y, W, and B.[2] Meningococcal group B disease (MenB) is a form of invasive meningococcal disease caused by group B. Until recently, even if your child was vaccinated for meningococcal meningitis, he or she was not protected against MenB.[3] Group B accounts for approximately 50% of all meningococcal disease cases in persons 17 to 23 years of age in the US.[1]

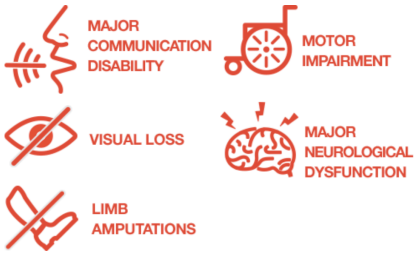
Typical adolescent behaviors can spread meningitis, such as living in close quarters, or sharing drinks, cups, or utensils—and even kissing.[4,5] Outbreaks of the disease at various colleges in 2015, such as Providence College and the University of Oregon, underscore the risk.[1,6] **The consequences of getting MenB can be deadly. However, MenB is a vaccine preventable disease.[7]**

At first, meningitis symptoms may seem like the flu, but it can lead to death in 24 hours[7]

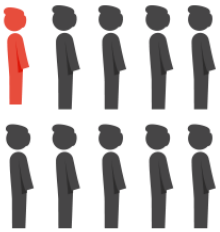
Example of how symptoms may progress.

First phase	Second phase	Third phase	Fourth phase
(0-8 hours)	(8+ hours)	(13-16 hours)	(16+ hours)
Fever, headache, nausea, vomiting	Decreased appetite, nausea, vomiting	Drowsiness, difficulty breathing, neck stiffness	Sensitivity to light, rash, confusion, delirium

Adolescents and young adults who survive MenB may have permanent, long-term consequences including[8]



On average, 1 in 10 who develops meningitis will die from it[9]



1 in 5 adolescents and young adults has not received at least one vaccination for groups A, C, W, and Y at ages 13 to 17[10]

Vaccination is critical to helping to protect your child. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that a MenB vaccine series may be administered to adolescents and young adults aged 16 through 23 years to provide short-term protection against most strains of MenB disease. The preferred age for MenB vaccination is 16 through 18 years old. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that a MenB vaccine may be administered to adolescents and young adults. Talk to your healthcare provider about vaccinating your child against MenB disease.[11]

Learn more about the risks, signs, and symptoms of meningitis:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Meningitis Association, Meningitis Angels, and MeetMeningitis.com.

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