

# ONCE SYMPTOMS APPEAR, MENINGITIS B CAN PROGRESS QUICKLY.

Be quick to learn the facts.

Ask your doctor about a meningitis B vaccine.



## IF I'VE ALREADY HAD A MENINGITIS VACCINE, DO I STILL NEED TO GET A MENINGITIS B VACCINE?

**MAYBE** It takes **2 different types of vaccines** to help protect against the 5 vaccine-preventable groups of meningitis—A, C, W, Y, and B. The vaccine most of us received when we were younger only covered **meningitis A, C, W, AND Y**, not **meningitis B**, since a vaccine wasn't available until late 2014.



MANY HAVE RECEIVED

MOST HAVE NOT RECEIVED

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), keeping up-to-date with recommended vaccines is the best defense against meningitis, although vaccines may not protect all individuals.



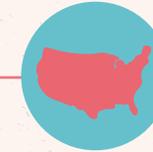
## IS MENINGITIS B LIFE-THREATENING?

**IT CAN BE** Meningococcal disease is an uncommon, but serious infection. Meningococcal meningitis is sometimes referred to simply as meningitis, as in meningitis A, C, W, Y or B. Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*. The bacteria live within the nose and throat and can be spread through certain everyday behaviors, including coughing, kissing, or living in close quarters. Once infected, meningitis B can progress quickly.



## IS IT TRUE THAT MENINGITIS B CAN BE FATAL WITHIN 24 HOURS?

**YES** Although meningococcal disease is uncommon, about 1 in 10 people infected will die, sometimes within 24 hours. Of those who survive, about 1 in 5 will suffer long-term disabilities such as hearing loss, brain damage, kidney damage, amputations, nervous system problems, or severe scars from skin grafts.



## HAVE THERE BEEN RECENT CASES OF MENINGITIS B ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES?

**YES** From January 2015 to November 2016, there were 18 cases, including one death, of meningitis B at colleges or universities in the following states: Oregon, California, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, and New Jersey.\*

\*Does not include sporadic cases of meningitis B.



## WHY DOES MENINGITIS B OCCUR AT A HIGHER RATE IN YOUNG ADULTS?

Meningitis is unpredictable and individual cases can occur all across the country. From 2014-2016, 18 to 20 year olds attending college were found to have a higher risk of contracting meningitis B than persons in this age group not attending college. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that the meningitis B vaccination may be administered to young adults 16–23 years old, preferably 16–18 years old, to help protect against meningitis B.

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