



PHARMACIST

POCKET GUIDE:

THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATING AGAINST MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Important facts about meningococcal disease (meningitis)

- Historically in the US, serogroups A, C, W, Y, and B have been the cause of most cases of meningococcal disease¹
- There are 2 different types of vaccines to help prevent meningococcal disease—one for MenACWY and one for MenB—to help protect against the 5 vaccine-preventable meningococcal serogroups²
- Millions of teens aren't vaccinated against meningitis B (data from January 2017)³, since a vaccine wasn't available until late 2014⁴
- Meningococcal disease can spread through close contact such as living in close quarters, coughing, sneezing, kissing, or certain behaviors like sharing drinks or eating utensils^{1,5,6}
- Teens and young adults who are 16 to 23 years of age have one of the highest rates of meningococcal disease⁷⁻⁹
- Vaccination may not protect all recipients

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MENINGITIS ACWY VACCINE

Who should get vaccinated?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination for all preteens and teens.⁴ The CDC recommends 2 doses of MenACWY vaccine for adolescents 11 to 18 years old, with the first dose at 11 or 12 and a booster dose at 16.¹⁰

MenACWY vaccine is also recommended for certain groups of people and situations¹⁰:

- People with anatomic or functional asplenia, including sickle cell disease
- People with HIV infection
- Anyone with a rare immune system condition called “persistent complement component deficiency”
- Anyone taking a drug called eculizumab
- Anyone traveling to, or living in, a part of the world where meningococcal disease is common, such as parts of Africa in the meningitis belt or during The Hajj
- College freshmen living in dormitories (if not previously vaccinated at age 16 or older)
- US military recruits

Some people need multiple doses for adequate protection.

Who should not get vaccinated?

- Someone who has had a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a dose of MenACWY vaccine or has a severe allergy to any component of the vaccine⁴
- Someone who has a moderate or severe illness should probably wait until they recover before getting vaccinated⁴

Please refer to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Schedule for the complete MenACWY vaccination recommendation.

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MENINGITIS B VACCINE

Who should get vaccinated?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends MenB vaccination for people 10 years or older, who are at increased risk for meningococcal disease. Teens and young adults (16- to 23-year-olds) **may** also be vaccinated with a MenB vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years old.⁴

People 10 years old through adults **should** get a MenB vaccination if they⁴:

- Have a rare immune system condition called “persistent complement component deficiency”
- Are taking a drug called eculizumab
- Have anatomic or functional asplenia, including sickle cell disease
- Are a microbiologist who is routinely exposed to *Neisseria meningitidis*
- Are part of a population identified to be at increased risk because of a serogroup B meningococcal disease outbreak

Who should not get vaccinated?

- Anyone who has had hypersensitivity or a severe allergic reaction to a dose of MenB vaccine or has a severe allergy to any part of the vaccine⁴
- Pregnant or breastfeeding women unless they are at increased risk for meningitis B and only after consultation with their doctor if the benefits of receiving the vaccine outweigh the risks⁴

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MENINGITIS B VACCINE

Remember these key facts about MenB vaccination

- Millions of teens aren't vaccinated against meningitis B³ since a vaccine wasn't available until 2014⁴
- There are 2 different types of vaccines to help prevent meningococcal disease—one for MenACWY and one for MenB—to help protect against the 5 vaccine-preventable meningococcal serogroups²
- Vaccination may not protect all recipients

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt08-mening.html>. Updated October 2, 2018. Accessed February 25, 2019. **2.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Meningococcal Vaccines for Preteens, Teens. <https://www.cdc.gov/features/meningococcal/>. Updated April 16, 2018. Accessed February 25, 2019. **3.** Data on file, GSK. **4.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Meningococcal Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/public/>. Accessed March 8, 2019. **5.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Meningococcal Disease. <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/about/causes-transmission.html>. Updated March 28, 2017. Accessed February 25, 2019. **6.** Mayo Clinic website. Meningitis. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/meningitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20350508>. Updated January 6, 2019. Accessed February 25, 2019. **7.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Enhanced Meningococcal Disease Surveillance Report, 2015. <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/downloads/NCIRD-EMS-Report-2015.pdf>. Accessed February 25, 2019. **8.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Enhanced Meningococcal Disease Surveillance Report, 2016. <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/downloads/NCIRD-EMS-Report.pdf>. Accessed February 25, 2019. **9.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Enhanced Meningococcal Disease Surveillance Report, 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/downloads/NCIRD-EMS-Report-2017.pdf>. Accessed February 25, 2019. **10.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger, United States, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-combinedschedule-bw.pdf>. Accessed March 8, 2019. **11.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Meningococcal Vaccination. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/index.html>. Updated March 24, 2017. Accessed February 25, 2019.

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