

# Meningococcal disease

## DISEASE:

**Meningococcal disease** is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*. The disease is often severe and can be deadly.<sup>25</sup>

The invasive form of meningococcal disease can take one's life in just 24 hours.<sup>26</sup>

Doctors treat meningococcal disease with antibiotics but quick medical attention is extremely important.

Keeping up to date with recommended vaccines is the best defense against meningococcal disease.<sup>25</sup>

## TRANSMISSION:<sup>27</sup>

Meningococcal bacteria is spread by sharing respiratory and throat secretions (saliva/spit) for example, coughing, kissing or lengthy contact.



## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:<sup>28</sup>

Flu-like symptoms or sudden onset of:

- Fever
- Headache
- Stiff neck

It will often also cause:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Rash
- Confusion



## POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:<sup>29</sup>

- Meningococcal meningitis (infection of the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord)
- Meningococcal septicaemia (infection of the bloodstream)
- Up to 1 in 5 survivors will suffer disabilities, nervous system problems or brain damage



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