Meningococcal disease

**DISEASE:**

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*. The disease is often severe and can be deadly. The invasive form of meningococcal disease can take one’s life in just 24 hours. 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.

**TRANSMISSION:**

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

**SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:**

Flu-like symptoms or sudden onset of:
- Fever
- Stiff neck
- Headache
- Nausea
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Confusion
- Vomiting
- Rash
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Rash
- Confusion
- Fever

It will often also cause:
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Rash
- Confusion
- Fever
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Rash
- Confusion
- Fever

**POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:**

- 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

Flu (short for influenza) is an illness caused by influenza viruses. Flu viruses infect the nose, upper airways, throat and lungs. Flu spreads easily and can cause serious illness, especially for children younger than 5 years old, older people, pregnant women and people with certain chronic medical conditions like asthma and diabetes. Children especially younger than 2 years old are more likely to be hospitalised due to flu.
Childhood Vaccinations

Find out more about VACCINATION
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