

Meningococcal disease

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*. The disease is often severe and can be deadly.²¹

The invasive form of meningococcal disease can take one's life in just 24 hours.²²

Doctors treat meningococcal disease with antibiotics but quick medical attention is extremely important. Vaccination is an effective way to prevent meningococcal disease.²¹

TRANSMISSION²¹



Meningococcal bacteria spread through the exchange of respiratory secretions and close contacts (e.g. by living in close quarters, kissing, sharing of utensils/water bottles).

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS²¹

Flu-like symptoms or sudden onset of:

- Fever
- Stiff neck
- Headache

It will often also cause:

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



POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS²³

- Meningococcal meningitis (infection of the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord)
- Meningococcal septicaemia (infection of the bloodstream)
- Brain damage, hearing loss or disability in 10% to 20% of survivors



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