

Texas Law Makes It Mandatory For Incoming Students Enrolling in a Private or Public Institution of Higher Education to Get Vaccinated For Meningococcal Disease

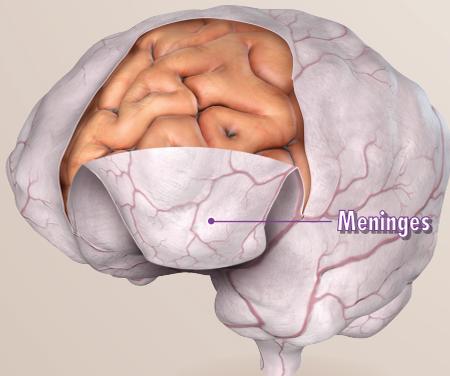
Although Meningococcal Disease is Rare, Do You Know That Adolescents and Young Adults Are At Higher Risk?

Learn about meningococcal disease and talk to a health care professional about getting vaccinated.



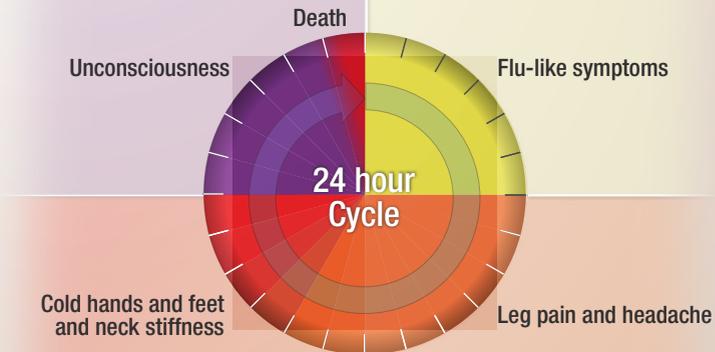
What Is Meningococcal Disease?

Meningococcal disease is a bacterial infection caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*. Meningococcal disease can lead to swelling of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) and a severe blood infection (sepsis). The illness can progress rapidly, and can result in death within 24 hours or in permanent disabilities. Moreover, the early symptoms of meningococcal disease can be confused with other conditions. Vaccination may be your best line of protection.



Meningococcal Disease Has Rapid Onset and Progression

May progress from non-specific initial flu-like symptoms to close to death within 24 hours





Why Is Vaccination Mandatory?

Adolescents and young adults are most vulnerable to meningococcal disease due to predisposing social behaviors which may include the exchange of respiratory fluids such as smoking, kissing, and living in dormitories among other social behaviors.¹

More information on the symptoms and transmission of meningococcal bacteria is available online at www.cdc.gov/meningitis.



The Jamie Schanbaum And Nicolis Williams Act: The Texas Meningitis Vaccination Law

As of January 1, 2012, it is mandatory for incoming Texas college students younger than 30 years to be immunized against bacterial meningitis before enrolling in a private or public institution for higher education. The law defines 'entering' college students as (1) new students; or (2) transfer students, who were previously enrolled in an institution of higher learning prior to January 1, 2012 and are re-enrolling in the same or different institution following a break of at least one fall or spring semester. Under this law, an incoming student (domestic or international) is required to provide proof of vaccination at least 10 days prior to the start of the semester, in accordance with the rules specified by the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board (THECB). The THECB mandates the need for an incoming student to present a signed certification from a health practitioner or an official immunization record as proof, stating that the student has received vaccination for bacterial meningitis or a booster within the 5-year period preceding the date specified by THECB. Certain exemptions apply. Check with your institution's health administrator.²



<http://www.legis.state.tx.us>

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Meningococcal Disease Can Be Devastating

With meningococcal disease, you can die within 24 hours from the time of initial flu-like symptoms. Meningococcal disease leaves its impact long after hospitalization. Approximately 11-19% of people who survive meningococcal disease suffer from significant, permanent injury, including amputations, skin grafts, deafness and brain damage. Talk with your health care professional; get vaccinated before starting college.¹



Where Can You Get Vaccinated?

If you are an incoming college student who meets the requirements, as specified in the Jamie Schanbaum and Nicolis Williams Act, please visit one of the following places to receive the mandatory vaccination prior to enrollment:

- Your primary care / family physician
- Your local community health department
- One of several pharmacies who are providing meningitis vaccinations
- Your college/university/school's student health center



**For more information and an important video regarding the
Texas meningitis vaccination law please access the link or the QR code**



<http://www.texasmandatevideo.com>

Reference List

1. Meningococcal Disease Clinical Challenges and Prevention. 2011. Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics. Ref Type: Data File
2. Bill Analysis. Senate Research Center. <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Search/DocViewer.aspx>. Accessed March 8, 2012.



Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc.
Cambridge, MA 02139

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