

Your child may not be vaccinated against Meningitis B, even if they received a meningitis vaccination when they were younger.

Is meningitis life-threatening?

It can be. Meningococcal meningitis is a rare but serious disease caused by bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*.

It can lead to an infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord or to septicemia, which is an infection of the blood. Meningitis can strike without warning and progress quickly.

Have there been outbreaks of Meningitis B?

While outbreaks of Meningitis B are rare, they are very serious. Between 2013 and 2015, there were four outbreaks of Meningitis B disease reported on US college campuses. These ultimately led to two deaths.

Why are young adults specifically at risk for Meningitis B?

Young adults 16–23 years of age are at increased risk since they often live in close quarters or are in close contact with each other, in places such as schools, college dormitories, or military barracks.

As a result, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that the Meningitis B vaccination may be administered to young adults 16–23 years old, preferably 16–18 years old, to help protect against Meningitis B. The CDC also recommends Meningitis B vaccination for persons 10 years and older in certain groups who are at increased risk for Meningitis B disease.

How does Meningitis B spread?

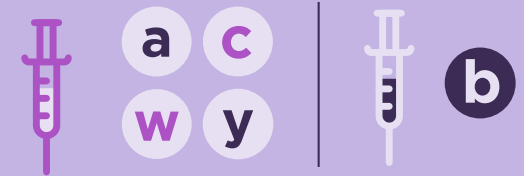
The bacteria can spread from person to person through close contact (coughing, sneezing, or kissing).



Talk to your child's healthcare professional or pharmacist about Meningitis B vaccination.

For more information, visit www.MeningitisB.com

If my child had a meningitis vaccine when they were younger, do they still need a Meningitis B vaccine?



Most likely. Meningococcal group B disease, or Meningitis B, is not the same meningitis that most children are vaccinated against as adolescents. There are 5 vaccine-preventable meningitis groups – A, C, W, Y, and B – and there are two different vaccines that can help protect your child against these 5 groups.

Most likely, the meningitis vaccine that your child may have received as an adolescent only helps to prevent against Meningitis A, C, W, and Y.

A vaccine for Meningitis B has only been available since late 2014. Most likely, your child hasn't been vaccinated against Meningitis B, which makes up a third of all meningitis cases in the US.

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