

## Immunisation Program

\*Check with your doctor as to what needle is necessary for you.

CHILD PROGRAMS	
BIRTH	Hepatitis B (hepB)
2 months	Hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (whooping cough), Haemophilus influenzae type b, inactivated poliomyelitis (polio) (hepB-DTPa-Hib-IPV); Pneumococcal conjugate (13vPCV); Rotavirus
4 months	Hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (whooping cough), Haemophilus influenzae type b, inactivated poliomyelitis (polio) (hepB-DTPa-Hib-IPV); Pneumococcal conjugate (13vPCV); Rotavirus
6 months	Hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (whooping cough), Haemophilus influenzae type b, inactivated poliomyelitis (polio) (hepB-DTPa-Hib-IPV); Pneumococcal conjugate (13vPCV); Rotavirus
12 months	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib); Meningococcal C (MenCCV); Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
18 months	Measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (chickenpox) (MMRV)
4 years	Diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (whooping cough) and inactivated poliomyelitis (polio) (DTPa-IPV); Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) (to be given only if MMRV vaccine was not given at 18 months)
SCHOOL PROGRAMS	
10-15 years (contact your State or Territory Health Department for details)	Varicella (chickenpox); Human Papillomavirus (HPV); Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (whooping cough) (dTpa)
AT RISK GROUPS	
6 months and over	Influenza (flu) (people with medical conditions placing them at risk of serious complications of influenza)
12 months	Pneumococcal conjugate (13vPCV) (medically at risk)
12-18 months	Pneumococcal conjugate (13vPCV) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in high risk areas)
12-24 months	Hepatitis A (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in high risk areas)
4 years	Pneumococcal polysaccharide (23vPPV) (medically at risk)
15 years and over	Influenza (flu) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people); Pneumococcal polysaccharide (23vPPV) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people medically at risk)
50 years and over	Pneumococcal polysaccharide (23vPPV) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people); Pregnant women; Influenza (flu)
65 years and over	Influenza (flu); Pneumococcal polysaccharide (23vPPV)

\*Pneumococcal vaccine:

Medically at risk children: require: a fourth dose of 13vPCV at 12 months of age; and a booster dose of 23vPPV at 4 years of age (but less than 6 years of age).

Infants born at less than 28 weeks gestation require: a fourth dose of 13vPCV at 12 months of age.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children require: a fourth dose of pneumococcal vaccine (13vPCV) at 12 months of age (but not more than 18 months) for children living in high risk areas (Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia). Contact your State or Territory Health department for details.

The Meningitis Centre Australia primarily deals with information about meningitis vaccinations, for further information about any of the other vaccines mentioned in this Schedule please consult your G.P. or go to [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au) or contact 1800 671 811.

## More Information

For information about The Meningitis Centre Australia and how it can help you, contact

### The Meningitis Centre Australia

*A project area within the Telethon Kids Institute*

100 Roberts Road, SUBIACO WA 6008  
or PO Box 855, WEST PERTH WA 6872

Freecall: 1800 250 223 Mon-Fri 8am-4pm (WST)



Web: [www.meningitis.com.au](http://www.meningitis.com.au)

Email: [meningitis@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:meningitis@telethonkids.org.au)

Founding member of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (CoMO) [www.comomeningitis.org](http://www.comomeningitis.org)

Disclaimer: The Meningitis Centre Australia is a 'not for profit' organisation based in Australia, not a professional medical authority. The Meningitis Centre Australia's literature provides general information about meningitis, not medical advice. Please consult your doctor to discuss the information or if you are concerned someone may be ill.

Produced by The Meningitis Centre Australia.

Acknowledgements to The Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service, Meningitis Research Foundation and Meningitis Now.

# Meningitis

## What you need to know



*Every Second Counts*

## What is meningitis?

Meningitis is an infection of the lining of the brain.

Meningitis can kill very fast, if you don't see a doctor urgently.

It is important to know the signs and get help straight away.

Anyone can get meningitis at any time and any age.

## What causes meningitis?

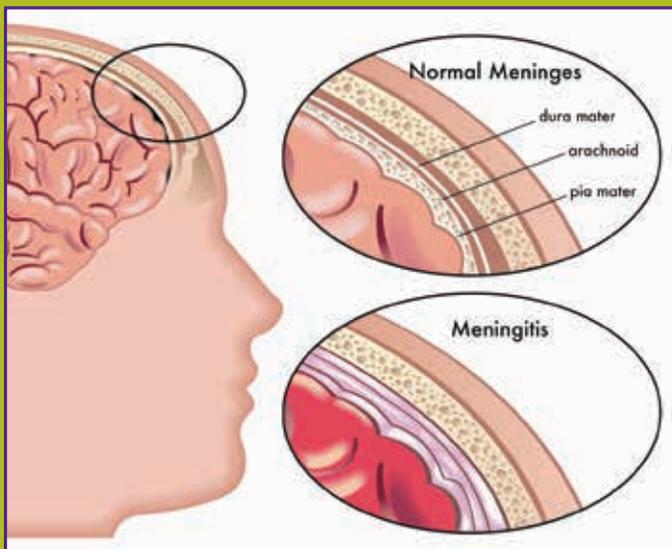
Meningitis can be caused by infection with:

- A virus
- Bacteria (germs)
- Parasites or fungi



## Types of meningitis

Bacterial meningitis is common. It is caused by the meningococcal, pneumococcal and Hib bacteria.



## How do I know if I have it?

	Babies	Children/Adults
Fever, cold hands and feet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vomiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tired/floppy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Blank expression	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dislikes being handled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rapid breathing/grunting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pale blotchy skin/spots/rash	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unusual crying/refuses to feed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bulging soft spot on top of head	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stiff neck/dislikes bright lights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe headache	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fitting/stiff jerking movements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

These are common symptoms and can appear in any order. Some may not appear at all. If concerned, see a doctor immediately.

Bacterial meningitis can kill very fast. It is important to get help straight away. It may take people a long time to get well from this sickness.

People can have a vaccine (needle) to stop them getting some types of bacterial meningitis (**see Immunisation Program on back page**).

Viral meningitis is caused by different types of viruses. It is not always life threatening.



## How can I stop my family getting meningitis?

You, your kids and family can be immunised (have a needle) against some types of bacterial meningitis (**see Immunisation Program on back page**). Ask your doctor, nurse or health worker about immunisations.

Washing your hands with soap and water helps stop the spread of bacteria and viruses.

If someone in your family has meningitis, get the family checked out by a doctor too.

## Can I get meningitis again?

If you are healthy it is very rare to get the same type of meningitis again.

Having a needle (immunisation) is a good idea to protect you (**see Immunisation program on back page**).

