

# Meningococcal, Meningitis and Septicaemia

## Learn the Symptoms – Meningitis and Septicaemia can kill in 24 hours

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

### A rash may also occur with some forms of meningitis\*.

\*The rash can start anywhere on the body & can vary in appearance. Not every person who has meningitis or septicaemia will have a rash. If you believe someone is seriously ill do not wait for a rash to appear as it may not appear in all cases. Seek urgent medical attention. <sup>^</sup>Young children with meningitis may not have a stiff neck, and may not be light sensitive.

## Hygiene

The viruses and bacteria that cause most cases of meningitis are spread by prolonged, close personal contact. However, if immunity is low, viral meningitis can spread quickly. In addition, thorough hand washing with soap and water may reduce the transmission of viruses in the household or in childcare facilities.



## Vaccines

Viral meningitis cannot be prevented, however most bacterial meningitis can. The following is a list of vaccinations available in Australia to help prevent against meningitis and meningococcal.

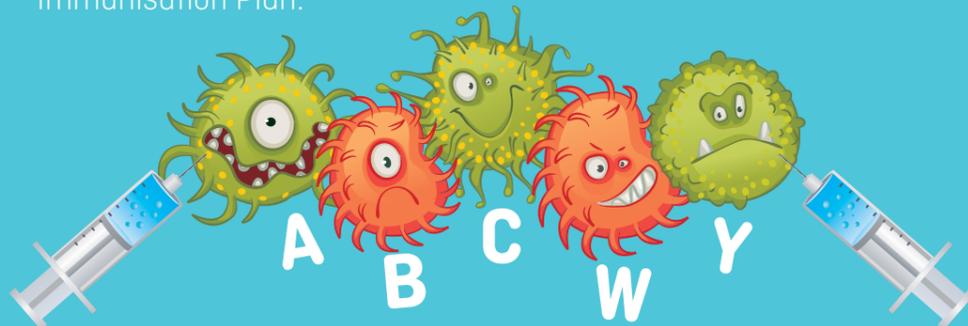
**Meningococcal C** – given to children at 12 months of age through the National Immunisation Plan.

**Meningococcal B** – Bexsero vaccine available by prescription.

**Meningococcal ACWY** – Menveo, Menactra and Nimenrix brands are available through prescription from your GP. However some states in Australia vaccinate the 15 and 19 year old age group for free. Check with your state immunisation program 1800 671 811.

**Pneumococcal** – Pneumococcal conjugate (13vPCV) given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months through the National Immunisation Plan. Also for those aged 65 years and over (polysaccharide 23vPPV).

**Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)** – given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 12 months through the National Immunisation Plan.



**Symptoms can occur in any order, and may not all be present. If concerned, see a doctor immediately! Don't hesitate to return to the doctor or hospital immediately if the person deteriorates or you are still concerned!**

For further information about meningitis, meningococcal or septicemia visit:

**meningitis.com.au**

Free Call 1800 250 223

Open Monday to Friday 8am-4pm (WST). Closed Thursday

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



Disclaimer: Meningitis Centre Australia is a 'not for profit' support organisation based in Australia, not a professional medical authority. Meningitis Centre Australia's literature provides general information about meningitis, not medical advice. Please consult your doctor for further information & seek medical attention if you are concerned someone may be ill.



**MENINGITIS CENTRE AUSTRALIA**

Raising awareness. Every second counts.