

# Meningococcal Vaccines

There are two meningococcal vaccines that protect against five types of meningitis.(1)

Meningococcal disease causes meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) or sepsis (bloodstream infection). It is spread by close contact with an infected person. Symptoms of meningitis may include stiff neck, headache, fever, or drowsiness. Symptoms of sepsis may include fever, shock, or coma. The disease progresses very quickly and can seriously harm a healthy child in just a few hours.(1,2)

**Doctors recommend** 2 doses of MenACWY vaccine at 11-12 and 16 years old. Talk to your child's doctor about the MenB vaccine: Depending on their risk factors, 2 doses at 16-18 years old may be recommended.(1)



**Possible side effects** are redness or soreness at the injection site or a slight fever. (1)



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1) American Academy of Pediatrics: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Meningococcal-Vaccines-What-You-Need-to-Know.aspx>  
2) Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/meningococcal-vaccine>