

Attention Parents of 11-Year Olds!

Your child will be offered a shot for protection against meningitis at his/her next check up. Receiving the vaccine is an essential way to protect your child from this aggressive and devastating illness. Give your child the best chance to avoid this illness. Immunize, don't delay! (This vaccine can be given with the other vaccines offered at this age, such as flu, HPV, Tetanus, and Hepatitis A.)

Meningitis Facts:

Meningitis is inflammation or infection of the "meninges" or the outer coating of the brain and spinal cord.

Though many viruses and a few bacteria can cause meningitis in humans, the vaccine we offer protects against one bacterial form called Neisseria Meningitis.

There are about 1000 cases per year in the United States.

This form of meningitis is very aggressive and deadly.

10% of the population carries this bacteria in their noses and throats without causing symptoms or illness.

It is spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions, like saliva, among people living/gathered in large groups and in close contact (college, camps, homes) with someone who contracts the illness or with someone who is an un-symptomatic carrier.

Adolescence and young adulthood are common times for this infection to occur.

10% of people who get this will die from it, even if they are getting antibiotics within a few hours of the onset of symptoms.

10% of survivors may have long-term impairments such as brain damage, seizures, hearing loss, or limb amputations.

Refer to [link](#) for video testimonials from survivors and from families whose loved ones died from this illness.