



# Take 5 for Meningitis

## The Facts About Meningococcal Meningitis

Meningococcal disease, which is commonly known as meningococcal meningitis, is a rare but serious disease that can be deadly.

One in 10 people infected with meningitis will die, while one in five of the survivors will suffer long-term disability, such as loss of limbs, brain damage, deafness and nervous system problems.<sup>1</sup>

## Vaccination Can Help Prevent Meningitis

Serogroups A, C, W, Y and B historically account for the majority of meningitis cases in the United States.

Meningitis vaccines have been available in the U.S. since the 1980s to help protect against groups A, C, W and Y. Yet until 2014, there were no vaccines to help protect against a fifth group, B, which causes one-third of the cases in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>

## Young Adults Could Be At Risk

Young adults are at increased risk for meningitis B because they often live, work and play in settings that foster close contact (e.g., schools, teams and clubs, camps, college dorms, military housing). To date, most young adults have not been vaccinated against meningitis B.

In fact, a 2015 Harris poll found that 83 percent of parents want their children to be vaccinated against all five vaccine-preventable serogroups of the disease, including group B.<sup>3</sup> However, less than 10 percent of young adults have received the vaccine that helps protect against meningitis due to group B<sup>4</sup>, which causes approximately 30 percent of the cases in the U.S.<sup>5</sup>

## Take 5 to Learn How to Help Prevent Meningitis

It only takes a few minutes to learn the facts. Talk to your doctor and ask about the two types of vaccines that together help protect against the five vaccine-preventable groups of meningitis. Learn more at [www.meningitis.com](http://www.meningitis.com)

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<sup>1</sup> CDC. Meningococcal Disease: Technical and Clinical Information. June 2015. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/clinical-info.html> Page 1, Paragraph 4, Lines 1-3.

<sup>2</sup> CDC. Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Chapter 8: Meningococcal Disease. April 2014. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt08-mening.html> Page 1, Paragraph 3, Line 2

<sup>3</sup> Harris Poll. US Awareness Poll-Young Adults. February 2015.

<sup>4</sup> GSK, data on file.

<sup>5</sup> CDC. Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Chapter 8: Meningococcal Disease. April 2014. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt08-mening.html> Page 1, Paragraph 3, Line 2