

VOICES OF MENINGITIS™

A Meningococcal Disease Prevention Campaign
from the National Association of School Nurses

In collaboration with sanofi pasteur

Is Your Child At Increased Risk For Meningococcal Meningitis?

Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious bacterial infection that can cause meningitis and take the life of an otherwise healthy child in just a single day. The good news is, vaccination is available to help protect against the disease.

Below are a series of questions to help you determine if your child may be at increased risk for meningococcal meningitis.

Is your child a preteen or teen?

– *Preteens and teens are at greater risk for getting meningitis and are 5 times more likely to die from the disease than other age groups.*

Does your child share drinking glasses or water bottles, or kiss other teens?

– *Meningococcal disease is spread from person to person through respiratory droplets and saliva*

Does your child attend sleep away camp or boarding school?

– *Living in close “dormitory style” quarters can increase a child’s risk of getting meningitis*

Does your child smoke or are they often exposed to smoke?

– *Smoking or being exposed to smoke can increase the risk of getting meningitis*

Does your child get enough sleep?

– *Not getting enough sleep can weaken the immune system, which may put your child at greater risk for getting meningitis*

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions, you should speak with your child’s school nurse or health-care provider about meningococcal vaccination. Vaccination has been available for years as a safe and effective way to help prevent meningitis. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other leading health officials recommend vaccination for preteens and teens beginning at age 11, with a booster dose by 18 years of age.

Don’t wait! Talk to your child’s school nurse or health-care provider about meningococcal disease and vaccination today. You can also visit www.VoicesOfMeningitis.org to learn more.

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