



ATTENTION ALL 5 TH GRADE PARENTS

This is a reminder that students are required to have additional vaccines before they enter 6 th grade. Documentation by the Doctor is required before your child enters school in September. Below are the guidelines we have received from the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine- Tdap

- Every child born on or after January 1, 1997 and entering or attending Grade Six, or a comparable age level special education program with an unassigned grade on or after September 1, 2008 shall have received one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) given no earlier than the 10 th birthday.
- Children entering or attending Grade Six on or after September 1, 2008 who received a Td booster dose less than five years prior to entry or attendance shall not be required to receive a Tdap dose until five years have elapsed from the last DTP/DTaP or Td dose. (If this is the case for your child, you will need to provide documentation from the physician with the date that your child had a DTP/DTaP or Td dose)

Meningococcal vaccine

- Every child born on or after January 1, 1997 and entering or attending Grade Six or a comparable age level special education program with an unassigned grade on or after September 1, 2008 shall have received one dose of a meningococcal vaccine. \*Please note: This applies to students when they turn 11 years of age and attending Grade Six.
- NOTE: If your child turns 11 after school starts in August, they will need to receive the vaccine within two weeks of their birthday.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) also recommends the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine between ages 11 and 12 and a flu vaccine every year.

Please see the attached information from the state that we are required to distribute annually to the parents and guardians of fifth grade students. If you have any questions, please call me at (908) 689-2958 extension 205.

Sincerely,  
Heather King BSN, RN CSN  
School Nurse

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*Matthew Eagleburger, Chief School Administrator - Magnolia Hutchins, Director of Special Services, Asst. Principal  
Tim Duryea, School Business Administrator*

## Who should get meningococcal vaccine?

Adolescents are recommended to receive two doses of the meningococcal vaccine that prevents infection with types A, C, W, and Y. The first dose is recommended at 11 or 12 years of age, followed by a booster dose at age 16. The vaccine is also recommended for persons at increased risk for disease.



There are also vaccines to help protect against meningococcal type B. MenB vaccine is recommended for people 10 and older who are at increased risk. It may be given to people 16 through 23 years old (preferably at 16 through 18 years old) in addition to the routinely administered meningococcal conjugate vaccine, to help provide broader protection. Ask your healthcare provider if your child should receive this vaccine.

## Where can I get more information about meningococcal vaccine?

- ◆ Your healthcare provider
- ◆ Your local health department [www.localhealth.nj.gov](http://www.localhealth.nj.gov)
- ◆ New Jersey Department of Health Meningococcal Disease Page [www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/meningo.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/meningo.shtml)
- ◆ New Jersey Department of Health Immunization Requirements [www.nj.gov/health/cd/imm\\_requirements](http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements)
- ◆ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov/meningococcal](http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal)

# Meningococcal Disease

Are you protected?



In New Jersey, meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY) is required for 11-year-olds attending school. Students in higher education may also be required to have received the vaccine. For more information, see N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 and P.L. 2019, c332.

## Is the meningococcal vaccine safe?

Meningococcal vaccines are safe and effective. As with all vaccines, there can be minor reactions, including pain and redness at the injection site or a mild fever for one to two days. Severe side effects, such as a serious allergic reaction, are very rare.

New Jersey Department of Health  
Communicable Disease Service Vaccine  
Preventable Disease Program  
PO Box 369  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-826-4861



This information is intended for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace consultation with a healthcare professional.

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## What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease refers to any illness caused by the type of bacteria (germs) called *Neisseria meningitidis*. Meningococcal disease may result in inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) and/or a serious blood infection (septicemia).

About 5-20% of people carry this type of bacteria in their nose and throat and do not get sick from them. But sometimes, *Neisseria meningitidis* can invade the body and cause meningococcal disease.



## Who gets meningococcal disease?

Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but certain groups are at increased risk. These include:

- College students and military recruits living in dorms or barracks
- People with certain medical conditions or immune system disorders including a damaged or removed spleen
- People who may have been exposed to meningococcal disease during an outbreak
- International travelers

## Why should I be concerned about meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is serious; even with treatment, the disease may result in death. Of those who live, about 20% will lose their arms or legs, have problems with their nervous system, become deaf, or suffer seizures or strokes. **Early diagnosis and treatment are very important.**

## How do people get meningococcal disease?

The bacteria are spread from person-to-person through the exchange of saliva (spit) or nasal secretions. One must be in direct (close) contact with an infected person's secretions in order to be exposed.

**Close contact** includes activities such as:

- Living in the same household
- Kissing
- Sharing eating utensils, food, drinks, cigarettes



These bacteria are not as contagious as the germs that cause the common cold or flu. The bacteria are not spread by casual contact or by breathing the air where a person with meningococcal disease has been.

## What are the symptoms of meningococcal disease?

Common symptoms are:

- Confusion
- Fatigue (feeling very tired)
- Headache
- High fever
- Nausea
- Rash of dark purple spots
- Sensitivity to light
- Stiff neck
- Vomiting



## How can meningococcal disease be prevented?

The best way to prevent meningococcal disease is to get vaccinated. There are two types of meningococcal vaccines available in the United States. The first type is the **meningococcal conjugate vaccine** which protects against serogroups A, C, W, and Y.



A second type of meningococcal vaccine is the **serogroup B vaccine**, which helps to protect against serogroup B meningococcal disease.

# Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) Vaccine: *What You Need to Know*

Many vaccine information statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis)

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis)

## 1. Why get vaccinated?

Tdap vaccine can prevent **tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis**.

Diphtheria and pertussis spread from person to person. Tetanus enters the body through cuts or wounds.

- **TETANUS (T)** causes painful stiffening of the muscles. Tetanus can lead to serious health problems, including being unable to open the mouth, having trouble swallowing and breathing, or death.
- **DIPHTHERIA (D)** can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, or death.
- **PERTUSSIS (aP)**, also known as “whooping cough,” can cause uncontrollable, violent coughing that makes it hard to breathe, eat, or drink. Pertussis can be extremely serious especially in babies and young children, causing pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage, or death. In teens and adults, it can cause weight loss, loss of bladder control, passing out, and rib fractures from severe coughing.

## 2. Tdap vaccine

Tdap is only for children 7 years and older, adolescents, and adults.

**Adolescents** should receive a single dose of Tdap, preferably at age 11 or 12 years.

**Pregnant people** should get a dose of Tdap during every pregnancy, preferably during the early part of the third trimester, to help protect the newborn from pertussis. Infants are most at risk for severe, life-threatening complications from pertussis.

**Adults** who have never received Tdap should get a dose of Tdap.

Also, adults should receive a booster dose of either Tdap or Td (a different vaccine that protects against tetanus and diphtheria but not pertussis) every 10 years, or after 5 years in the case of a severe or dirty wound or burn.

Tdap may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

## 3. Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of any vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, or pertussis**, or has any severe, life-threatening allergies
- Has had a **coma, decreased level of consciousness, or prolonged seizures within 7 days after a previous dose of any pertussis vaccine (DTP, DTaP, or Tdap)**
- Has **seizures or another nervous system problem**
- Has ever had **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** (also called “GBS”)
- Has had **severe pain or swelling after a previous dose of any vaccine that protects against tetanus or diphtheria**

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone Tdap vaccination until a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting Tdap vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

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#### 4. Risks of a vaccine reaction

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- Pain, redness, or swelling where the shot was given, mild fever, headache, feeling tired, and nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomachache sometimes happen after Tdap vaccination.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

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#### 5. What if there is a serious problem?

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An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call **9-1-1** and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at [www.vaers.hhs.gov](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov) or call **1-800-822-7967**. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff members do not give medical advice.*

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#### 6. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

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The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines. Claims regarding alleged injury or death due to vaccination have a time limit for filing, which may be as short as two years. Visit the VICP website at [www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation](http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation) or call **1-800-338-2382** to learn about the program and about filing a claim.

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#### 7. How can I learn more?

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- Ask your health care provider.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Visit the website of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for vaccine package inserts and additional information at [www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines](http://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines).
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
  - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)** or
  - Visit CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines).

