

Meningitis Risk in Healthy Teens

Is your teen fully vaccinated against
this serious disease?

***A LOT! I'm heading
there right after my
hockey game***

***BTW, can I borrow
your lipstick?***

***How many people will
be at the party tonight?***

***Great! I'll bring drinks
and popcorn to share***

***Sure, if you let
me borrow your
lip gloss! LOL***



**Your teen's everyday behaviours may put them
at risk for contracting meningococcal meningitis.**

Meningococcal Meningitis: What You Should Know

It is a form of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) that **can seriously affect the brain**

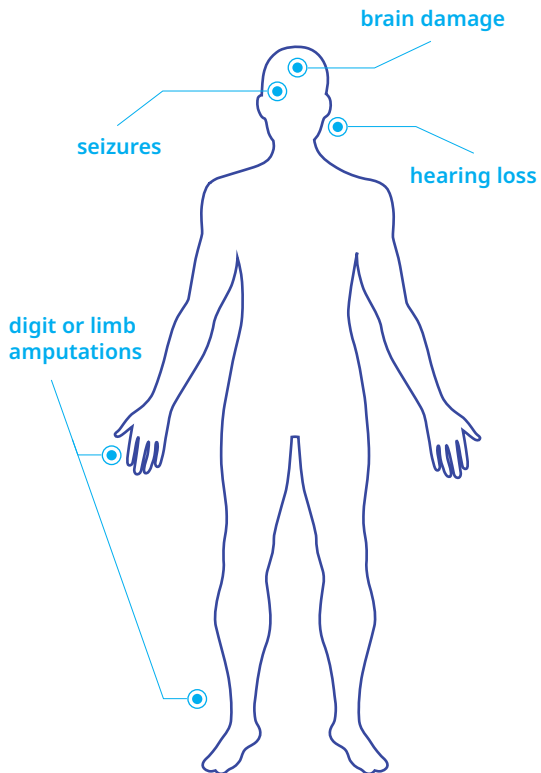


Can be fatal within 24 hours of first symptoms



Even when treated, 1 in 10 patients do not survive the first couple of days

IMD can lead to long-term health problems (in up to 1 in 3 survivors):



Teens & Young Adults: A High-Risk Group

Adolescents and young adults aged 15 to 24 are one of the age groups most at risk of contracting IMD in Canada:

- It can be spread from healthy-looking people, especially adolescents and young adults.
- As invisible threats, asymptomatic carriers are largely responsible for the spread of the bacteria causing meningococcal meningitis.

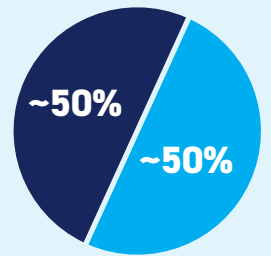
The risk of meningococcal meningitis can be invisible—prevent it with meningococcal vaccines.

Your Teen May Not Be Vaccinated for Meningococcal Meningitis B

...but it **CAN BE** vaccine-preventable

Serogroup B: One of the most common causes of IMD in Canada (2012–2019)

- Serogroup B
- All other serogroups



Adapted from Saboui et al. *Can Commun Dis Rep.* 2022

Yet, provincial routine childhood vaccination programs **DO NOT INCLUDE SEROGROUP B MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES.**

It's up to you to ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about meningococcal vaccination for your teen.

What Puts Your Teen at Risk?

The bacteria are spread from person to person through close, direct contact such as:



Sharing food, drinks, utensils, lip balms, cigarettes and vapes

Kissing



Close-quartered living

Coughing and sneezing



Meningococcal Meningitis CAN BE PREVENTED

Remember that:



It can be **fatal within 24 hours** of first symptoms of days



Even when treated, **1 in 10 patients do not survive** the first couple of days

Don't take the risk—it's up to you to ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about vaccination.



Visit **MENINGITIS.CA**
or scan this code
to learn more!

Vaccines do not protect 100% of those who are vaccinated. Meningococcal vaccines are not indicated to treat or reduce complications of invasive meningococcal diseases.

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