

What is meningococcal infection?

About meningococcal infection

Meningococcal is a very dangerous germ that can infect your body.

It's passed between people who have the meningococcal germ in their nose or throat. People can have the germ but not know it because they aren't sick. Even if they aren't sick, they can still pass on the germ to others, who could get very sick.

There are different types of meningococcal infection. Meningococcal B is the most common type in Australia.

High school students are at a high risk of getting a meningococcal infection because they spend a lot of time close together.

Meningococcal infection can:



make your brain and spinal cord swell up



make body parts, like your fingers and toes, die



cause problems with your hearing, seeing and learning



kill you

Meningococcal B vaccine

2 vaccines are given to Year 10 students, 8 weeks between each vaccine.

This protects students from most types of meningococcal B in Australia.

When you've had the meningococcal B vaccine, you might:



have a sore, red or swollen arm where the needle was given



have a headache



have sore muscles



get a temperature



feel sick

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

1 vaccine is given to Year 10 students.

This protects students from the A,C,W and Y strains of meningococcal disease.

When you've had the meningococcal ACWY vaccine, you might:



have a sore, red or swollen arm where the needle was given



have a headache



get a temperature



feel sick or tired

It is safe to have the meningococcal ACWY vaccine and the meningococcal B vaccine at the same time.



For more information

Immunisation Section
Communicable Disease Control Branch
sahealth.sa.gov.au/SIP



Government of South Australia
SA Health