

Think About
Protecting Your Teen.

Think
Meningococcal Vaccination.





Why should you ask your doctor about meningococcal vaccination?

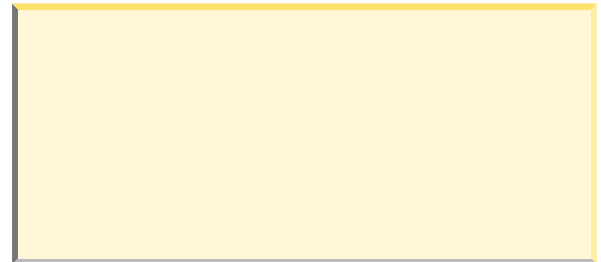
It's effective

Meningococcal vaccination can greatly reduce the risk of getting this very serious and potentially deadly disease. In fact, **up to 83%** of the cases in adolescents and young adults are caused by strains of bacteria that are potentially vaccine-preventable.^{5,6,11} The vaccine will help protect against the most common forms of the bacteria (*N meningitidis* strains A, C, Y, and W-135) that cause meningococcal disease. In fact, meningococcal vaccination has been used since the 1970s.¹² Be aware, however, that meningococcal vaccination will only protect against infection caused by strains A, C, Y, and W-135, and that no vaccine is guaranteed to protect 100% of individuals.

Recently, a “conjugate” meningococcal vaccine, which is a new form of the existing vaccine, was licensed for use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This finally makes it possible to protect young people before the time of increased risk for meningococcal disease.^{1,13}

It's safe

You should also know that the meningococcal vaccine has been demonstrated to be safe. However, as with all vaccines, some reactions (eg, soreness or redness at the injection site for 1 or 2 days) can happen. Some people may also have other reactions



In addition, **more than 30 states** have enacted legislation mandating distribution of information about meningococcal disease and the availability of a safe and effective vaccine to college students and their parents. Of these states, several also require distribution of information about meningococcal disease and the availability of a vaccine to high school students, children attending camp, and their parents.^{*16}

To learn more about meningococcal legislation in your state, log on to the National Meningitis Association Web site at www.nmaus.org

References:

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Questions to ask my doctor:

Should my child be vaccinated?

...or visit these Web sites*

www.cdc.gov/nip

www.meningococcaldisease.com

www.vaccinesafety.edu

www.partnersforimmunization.org

www.immunize.org

www.immunizationinfo.org

www.nfid.org/ncai

www.mayoclinic.com