

# Meningococcal, Meningitis and Septicaemia

## Learn the Symptoms – Meningitis and Septicaemia can kill in 24 hours

	Babies	Children & Adults
 Fever, cold hands and feet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Vomiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Tired/floppy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Blank expression	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Dislikes being handled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Rapid breathing/grunting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Pale blotchy skin/spots/rash	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Unusual crying/refuses to feed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Bulging soft spot on top of head	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Stiff neck/dislikes bright lights <sup>^</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Severe headache	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Fitting/stiff jerking movements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A rash may also occur with some forms of meningitis\*.

\*The rash can start anywhere on the body & can vary in appearance. Not every person who has meningitis or septicaemia will have a rash. If you believe someone is seriously ill do not wait for a rash to appear as it may not appear in all cases. Seek urgent medical attention. <sup>^</sup>Young children with meningitis may not have a stiff neck, and may not be light sensitive.

## Hygiene

The viruses and bacteria that cause most cases of meningitis are spread by prolonged, close personal contact. However, if immunity is low, viral meningitis can spread quickly. In addition, thorough hand washing with soap and water may reduce the transmission of viruses in the household or in childcare facilities.



## Vaccines

Viral meningitis cannot be prevented, however most bacterial meningitis can. The following is a list of vaccinations available in Australia to help prevent against meningitis and meningococcal.

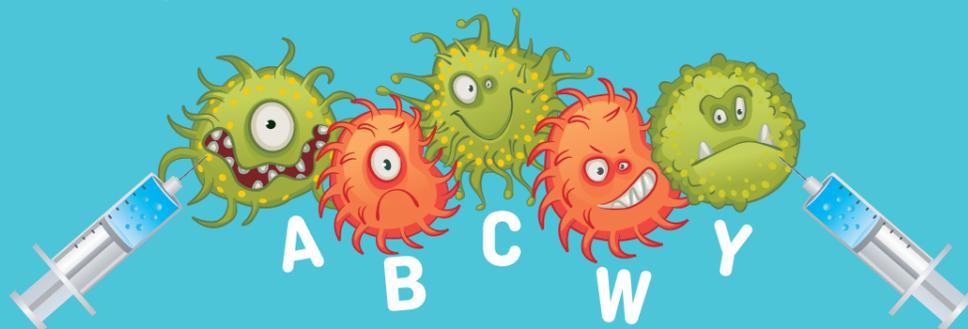
**Meningococcal B** – Bexsero or Trumenba vaccines require a private script and needs to be paid for out of pocket. However if you live in South Australia it is free for babies, toddlers and 15-21 year olds.

**Meningococcal ACWY** – is offered for FREE to babies at 12 months and teenagers 14-19 years through the National Immunisation Plan.

**Pneumococcal** – Pneumococcal conjugate [13vPCV] given at 2 months, 4 months, 12 months through the National Immunisation Plan. 65+ years can get the Pneumovax 23 vaccine for FREE.

**Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)** – given at 2, 4, 6 and 18 months for FREE on the National Immunisation Plan.

**\*\*Those with a specified medical condition should consult their GP for required doses\*\***



**Symptoms can occur in any order, and may not all be present. If concerned, see a doctor immediately! Don't hesitate to return to the doctor or hospital immediately if the person deteriorates or you are still concerned!**

For further information about meningitis, meningococcal or septicemia visit:

[meningitis.com.au](http://meningitis.com.au)

Free Call 1800 250 223

Open Monday to Friday 8am-4pm (WST)

Founding member of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (CoMO) [www.comomeningitis.org](http://www.comomeningitis.org)

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**MENINGITIS CENTRE AUSTRALIA**

Raising awareness. Every second counts.