



What is meningococcal disease?

- An infection caused by bacteria.
- The bacteria can infect the lining of the brain (meningitis), the blood stream (bacteremia) or both.

How does a person get Meningococcal disease?

- The bacteria is spread from person to person by direct close contact with nose and throat secretions (such as mucous or saliva) from an infected person.

What are the signs and symptoms?

- The onset of symptoms is usually sudden and illness progresses quickly.
- The most common symptoms are:
 - high fever
 - intense headache
 - stiff neck
 - nausea and vomiting
 - increased irritability
 - Less responsive.
- Sometimes a rash appears which looks like small bruises.

How is meningococcal disease treated?

- These infections are very serious and have to be treated in hospital with antibiotics.

How is meningococcal disease prevented?

- Do not share:
 - drinking cups
 - water bottles
 - cigarettes
 - lip products
 - mouth pieces of musical instruments
 - eating utensils
 - Soothers and other baby toys.
- Close contacts of an infected person may be given an antibiotic and immunization.
- Menjugate® vaccine (to protect against group C meningococcal disease) is available (free) for all children at age 1 year.
- Meningococcal vaccine to protect against A,C,Y,W-135 strains of bacteria is provided free to all grade 6 students.

For more information contact your doctor or
Population and Public Health at **306-655-4612**
