



# Meningitis Vaccines

## What you need to know about meningitis

**Meningococcal vaccine** can help protect against **meningococcal disease**

- **Meningococcal disease** can cause **meningitis** (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and infections of the blood.
- Even when it is treated, meningococcal disease kills 10 to 15 infected people out of 100. And of those who survive, about 10 to 20 out of every 100 will suffer permanent disabilities.
- Risks of bacterial meningitis include seizures and permanent neurological damage, including:
  - Hearing loss
  - Memory difficulty
  - Seizures
  - Kidney failure
  - Learning disabilities
  - Brain damage
  - Gait problems
  - Shock
  - Death
- Anyone can get meningococcal disease. Certain people are at increased risk, including:
  - Infants younger than one year old
  - Adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years old
  - People with certain medical conditions that affect the immune system
  - Microbiologists who routinely work with isolates of *N. meningitidis*, the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease
  - People at risk because of an outbreak in their community

**Different illnesses can cause meningitis and there are 2 types of meningococcal (MCV) vaccines.**

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (MCV4 or MenACWY) can help protect against meningococcal disease caused by serogroups A, C, W, and Y. Meningococcal B vaccine (MenB) can help protect against meningococcal disease caused by serogroup B.



**MCV4 is a 2-dose vaccine:**

- 1st dose: 11 - 12 years old
- 2nd dose: 16 years old



**MenB is a 1-dose vaccine:**

- Single dose: 16 - 18 years old



Together these vaccines are **85-90% effective** in preventing meningococcal disease

Data Sourced from CDC, PA-AAP Report on 2021 SILR Data

Meningococcal disease is rare and has declined in the United States since the 1990s. However, it is a severe disease with a significant risk of death or lasting disabilities in people who get it.



**Pennsylvania Chapter**

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# WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER VACCINATION

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination, this is how you know the vaccine is doing its job. These side effects are usually mild and disappear on their own in a few days. Some normal immune responses for meningococcal vaccine include:



**Soreness, redness, swelling at injection sight, or muscle/joint pain**



**Headache**



**Nausea or diarrhea**

**Tiredness**



**Fever or chills**



## Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of meningococcal vaccine**, or has any severe, life-threatening allergies
- In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone meningococcal vaccination until a future visit.
- There is limited information on the risks of this vaccine for pregnant or breastfeeding people, but no safety concerns have been identified. A pregnant or breastfeeding person should be vaccinated if indicated.
- People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting a meningococcal vaccine.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

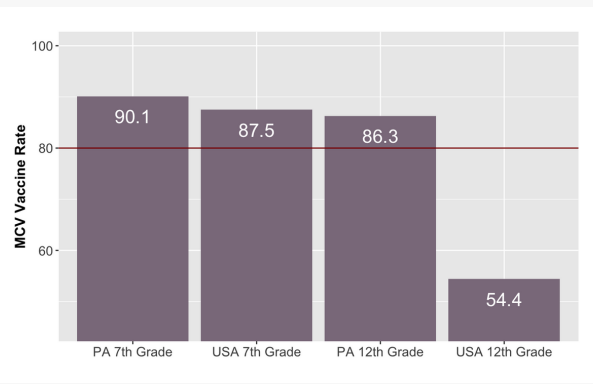
As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

# MCV Vaccination Rates

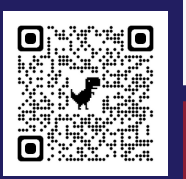
The Healthy People 2020 goal is **80%** coverage for the meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

\*Pennsylvania state data are taken from PAAAP Routine Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Report by Pennsylvania County 2018-2021; national data are taken from CDC estimates.

Percentage of 7th Graders with 1st of 2 dose MCV vaccine series and 12th Graders with 2nd of 2 dose MCV vaccine series in PA and USA\*



Scan the QR code to connect with the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition or a local coalition near you!



For more vaccine information go to: [immunizepa.org](https://immunizepa.org)