

LET'S TALK ABOUT

Meningococcal Meningitis: an uncommon but devastating infection

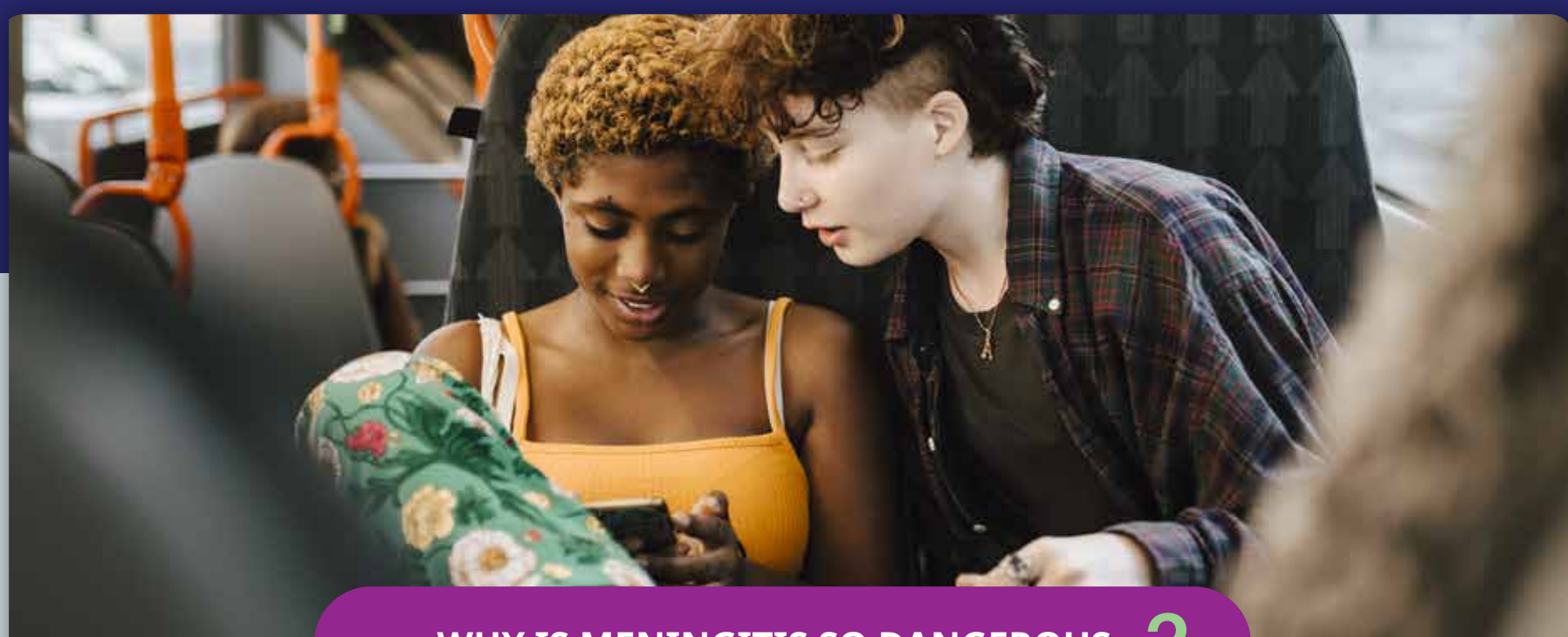
Meningococcal meningitis (meningitis) may be uncommon, but needs to be taken seriously. Meningitis can affect anyone and can quickly lead to lifelong disabilities – and can even be fatal.¹

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cases of meningococcal disease in the U.S. have increased sharply since 2021, and now exceed pre-pandemic levels.²

Meningitis is most commonly caused by five bacterial strains, known as serogroups (A, B, C, W, and Y).³

Historically, two separate vaccines – one for serogroups ACWY and one for serogroup B – have been available in the U.S. to help protect teens and young adults at risk.

But the majority of teens are not fully vaccinated against all five serogroups.⁴



WHY IS MENINGITIS SO DANGEROUS ?

Meningitis is an uncommon but potentially devastating disease. Often mistaken for the flu, it can strike even a healthy teen without warning:¹

1 IN 10 TEENS may die within 24-48 hours^{5,6}

1 IN 5 TEENS may suffer **permanent vision loss, hearing loss, amputation, or brain damage**¹

MOST TEENS ARE NOT FULLY VACCINATED⁴



According to CDC:



NEARLY 9 IN 10 older **TEENS** still have **INCOMPLETE** protection against the five leading serogroups of meningococcal meningitis.⁴

- ▶ **ONLY 61%** receive the second MenACWY vaccine⁴
- ▶ **ONLY 29%** receive a MenB vaccine⁴

According to a recent survey*

ONLY 1 IN 10 PARENTS are able to name the **five serogroups (A, B, C, W, and Y)** that cause most cases of meningitis.⁷

5 IN 10 PARENTS are unaware that **two different vaccines are needed (one for MenACWY and one for MenB)** to fully vaccinate teens against all five leading serogroups.⁷

8 IN 10 DOCTORS report meningitis vaccination rates in the U.S. are “moderate” to “somewhat low”.⁷

AS A PARENT, WHAT CAN YOU DO ?

The survey also found that:*

NEARLY ALL PARENTS WHO ARE ALSO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS make sure *their* teens are protected against the five leading serogroups of meningitis.^{7**}

**97.7% of those surveyed.



WHERE TO START: KNOW THE SCHEDULE

The first meningitis vaccine is given at age 11.

One of the main barriers to meningitis vaccination adherence amongst teens and young adults is its complex vaccination schedule:⁷



NEARLY 1 IN 4 PARENTS surveyed report limited knowledge of the current vaccination schedule.⁷

It is now easier than ever to help protect teens against all five leading serogroups of meningitis.

For more information about how to help **protect your teen against the five leading serogroups of meningitis**, speak with your teen's doctor or a pharmacist.



IT'S SIMPLE: TALK TO YOUR TEEN'S DOCTOR

Make sure your teen gets fully vaccinated against **ALL FIVE** leading serogroups of meningococcal meningitis.

*In August 2023, Pfizer and Ipsos conducted two independent surveys of 1000 parents (teens aged 15-18) and 500 healthcare providers (primary care physicians, pediatricians, providers with teens) to understand real-world decision processes and administrative patterns for routine (MenACWY) and step-up (MenB) vaccinations – along with HCP perceptions of caregiver knowledge – to help identify areas for improvement.

References

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