WORLD MENINGITIS DAY 2020
FACT SHEET

#DefeatMeningitis | #WorldMeningitisDay

**FACTS**
- **5 million cases** of meningitis a year.
- **300,000 deaths** from meningitis a year.
- **1 in 5** people with bacterial meningitis die.
- **1 in 5** people with bacterial meningitis have serious after-effects.
- Meningitis can kill in **hours**.
- **Anyone, anywhere** can be affected.

**AIMS**
1. Reduce cases and deaths.
2. Prevent epidemics.
3. Improve support and advocacy.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINES**
- The most effective method of prevention.
- Meningitis vaccines prevent **tens of thousands** of deaths a year.
- Vaccines protect those around you, including:
  - Young children and infants
  - Older people
  - People with compromised immune systems
- **Multiple vaccines** are needed for protection against different types of meningitis. Speak to your local healthcare provider to see which vaccines are available.

**SYMPTOMS**
- Fever
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Drowsy
- Confusion
- Rash
- Seizures
- Muscle and neck pain
- Dislike of bright lights
Symptoms can be **hard** to detect and **fast** to develop. If you suspect meningitis, seek urgent **medical attention**.

**AFTER-EFFECTS**
The disease leaves **1 in 5** people with an impairment:
- Cerebral palsy
- Brain injury
- Depression
- Organ damage
- Hearing loss
- Sight loss
- Limb loss

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