



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.

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**.

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.

AFTER-EFFECTS

The disease leaves **1 in 5** people with an impairment:

- Cerebral palsy
- Depression
- Sight loss
- Brain injury
- Organ damage
- Limb loss
- Hearing loss