



World Meningitis Day 2018

Key Messages

Incorporate this year's World Meningitis Day key messages into your communications!

1

Meningitis is a potentially deadly disease that can kill within 24 hours.

- Deafness, limb loss, brain damage and seizures are among some of the possible devastating after-effects in those that survive meningitis and septicaemia.
- Meningitis affects more than 2.8 million people globally each year.
- Infants, adolescents, older people, and people with weakened immune systems are among those at higher risk.

2

Bacterial meningitis can be caused by many different types of bacteria.

- Since there are different bacteria that can cause meningitis, there are a variety of vaccines that are needed to protect against it, such as MenC, MenA, MenACWY, MenB, PCV10, PCV13, PPV23 and Hib.
- **There is no single 'meningitis vaccine'** – receiving one type of meningitis vaccine will not protect an individual against other strains or types of meningitis.

3

There are safe and effective vaccines that protect against the most common causes of bacterial and viral meningitis.

- Immunisation is a successful and cost-effective way to protect the whole population.
- Currently available vaccines could prevent more than 90% of cases of bacterial meningitis.
- Speak to your local healthcare provider to learn which vaccines are available to you.

4

Not all strains of meningitis are vaccine preventable, so being able to recognise the symptoms is crucial.

- Trust your instincts if you spot: fever, rash, vomiting, headache, stiff neck, sensitivity to light or drowsiness.
- If you think that you or a loved one has meningitis, seek medical attention **immediately**.