

Meningococcal:

How to say it:

meh-nin-juh-KAH-kul (men + ninja + cockle)

What Parents Should Know for Students
Attending Seventh (7th) through 12th Grade
in Ohio.



Keep your child healthy!

Meningococcal germs can spread from person to person.

It can spread when kids share drinks, use the same utensils, or when someone coughs or sneezes nearby.

Early symptoms are like the flu and can include:

- Fever.
- Headache.
- Stiff neck.
- Confusion.
- Nausea, vomiting.
- Exhaustion.

Meningococcal disease is very serious.

Infections can cause long term complications including loss of limbs, and meningitis (inflammation of the brain and spinal cord linings). The disease can progress rapidly, within hours, and even be deadly.

Meningococcal disease has increased sharply since 2021 in the United States. Meningococcal disease is more common among infants, adolescents, young adults 16–23 years of age, and adults 65 years and older.



DID YOU KNOW?

Some people are at a higher risk than others; especially those living in crowded conditions such as college dorms.

Keeping up to date on meningococcal vaccine is the best way to protect your child against meningococcal disease.

Adolescents need two doses of meningococcal ACWY vaccine:

- First dose at 11 or 12 years of age.
- Second dose at 16 years of age.

There is another meningococcal vaccine, meningococcal B, that is not a school requirement. Talk with your doctor about protection against meningococcal B disease.

It's not too late to get the vaccine!

If your child is starting school and hasn't had both shots, that's okay—there's still time. Talk to your doctor or health clinic to see what your child needs to stay healthy.

A strong start to the school year begins with protection!

Meningococcal vaccines are available at:

- Many doctor's offices.
- [Local Health Departments](#).
- Pharmacies (check with location based on your child's age).

K-12 school vaccine requirements in Ohio:

- [Ohio Revised Code 3313.671](#) requires students to be fully protected against 10 vaccine-preventable diseases, including meningococcal ACWY.
- Students need one dose of meningococcal ACWY (administered on or after 10 years of age) prior to entering seventh grade and a booster dose prior to entering twelfth grade (administered on or after 16 years) ([Director's Journal-School Requirements](#)).

Your child may be able to get vaccines for free or at a low cost through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Check with your local health department to see if your child is eligible.

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