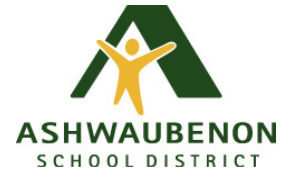


Meningococcal Disease: Protect Your Child



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other leading medical organizations recommend routine meningococcal immunization for adolescents during the preadolescent doctor's visit (11- to 12-year-olds), adolescents at high school entry (15-year-olds) if they have not previously been immunized, and for college freshmen living in dormitories.

Meningococcal disease is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection that can cause severe swelling of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) or a serious blood infection. Meningococcal bacteria are spread through direct contact with secretions from infected persons (e.g., through coughing or kissing). The majority of cases occur in winter and early spring. Symptoms may include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light, confusion, exhaustion and/or a rash. Meningococcal disease strikes up to 3,000 Americans each year; nearly 30 percent of the cases are among teenagers and college students.

To learn more about meningococcal disease, vaccine information, and public health resources, please visit the following web sites:

www.cdc.gov

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/LocalHealth/index.htm>